



Jednota

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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NUMBER 5783

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Lady of Levoca



Andrew M. Rajec

On Friday, July 25, 2008, I visited the shrine in Bedford, Ohio dedicated to Our Lady of Levoca. It was a tradition started by Cleveland area Slovaks in 1930 when, according to the Cleveland newspaper, over 40,000 people attended the dedication. Unfortunately, this year's crowd was much smaller, but still respectable.

The original shrine of Our Lady of Levoca is located outside the town of Levoca in eastern Slovakia. Levoca is a semi-preserved medieval town of about 15,000 people famous for its 15th century church with the tallest wooden gothic altar in the world, carved by Master Paul from Levoca. The town is less than 10 miles from the famous 11th century castle called Spissky Hrad, still in remarkable condition.

On the first Sunday in July every year, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims come from all over the country to participate in this celebration. Many thousands camp overnight, making the pilgrimage not only a serious religious experience but also a cultural, social and family event, attracting many younger people. A substantial number of people start out days in advance, praying and singing hymns as they hike the roads to Levoca.

Dr. Michael Kopanic notes that the tradition of pilgrimages of Our Lady of Levoca date back to the Middle Ages. Historical records first mention the town itself in 1249. They indicate that a wooden shrine of the Virgin Mary was already in a chapel on Mary's Hill when a parish church was being constructed in the thirteenth century. According to legend, local residents apparently fled to the hilltop when the Tatars invaded the region in 1241-1242, and they pledged that they would build a church to Our Lady if they were spared through her intercession.

News of the miraculous powers of the statue and the nearby spring spread far and wide across the countryside and ignited the beginnings of individual devotions, and eventually, the annual pilgrimages.

Interestingly, during the fifteen century, the Hussites, a heretical sect from Bohemia, entered Slovakia and destroyed religious images. Local residents took it upon themselves to hide the statue, which was safely returned to its original place when the threat passed.

Another threat to the statue appeared after 1950, when the Communists began raiding churches and destroying sacred relics. During those early years, after seizing power, the Communists prohibited pilgrimages, and the tradition at Levoca was put on hold.

Then the statue suddenly disappeared and many feared that a thief had stolen it. However, it resurfaced, but not until 1968, when Slovakia experienced a breath of religious freedom under Alexander Dubcek. A secret room was discovered under the Levoca town hall, and there was the statue, safe and

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QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 & FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

The Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2008; 1:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M. & Friday, September 26, 2008; 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

The monthly Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2008 at 9:00 A.M.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office prior to September 18, 2008.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

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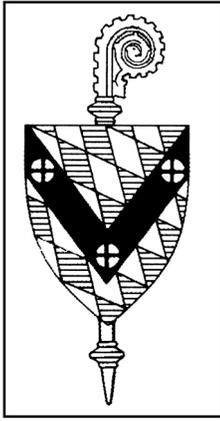
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Insights and Viewpoints



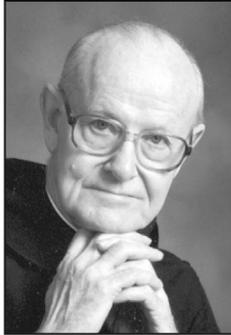
St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Father Demetrius R. Dumm O.D.B., Chapmion P. Gavaler, O.D.B.

September 14, 2008

Exaltation of the Holy Cross **John, 3: 13-17.**

Gospel Summary

In this passage, John refers to a story from the Old Testament (Numbers 21 :6-9), which is also today's first reading. In this passage, we read that the Israelites have been afflicted by a mysterious ailment on their desert journey and Moses is instructed by God to make a bronze serpent and to lift it up for all to see. The afflicted Israelites are told that, if



**Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.**

they gaze upon this sign with trust in God's power to save, they will be cured.

John sees in this story a prefiguring of the lifting up of Jesus on the cross for our salvation from the mortal danger of sin and spiritual death. In both stories, however, just gazing on this sign of God's power is not sufficient. This gazing must be accompanied by faith.

Life Implications

In this text, therefore, everything depends on the quality our believing.

In John's gospel, it is very clear that believing does not mean simply accepting the fact that Jesus existed, that he worked miracles, that he died on a cross and then rose from the dead. Unfortunately, we can believe all these simple facts without changing the way we live.

When John's gospel talks about believing, it means that the one who believes not only accepts as true the fact that Jesus died for us but also the conclusion that we too must change our way of living in a radical manner. We must henceforth not only admire the unselfishness of Jesus in his death for us but also make that ideal the first priority in our own lives. One can paraphrase what John writes as follows: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that all those who believe in him and make his unselfishness part of their own lives may not perish but may have eternal life.

It is only too easy to imagine a situation where people are very pious on Sunday morning but then engage in road rage the next morning on the way to work. Or teachers may be very competent but have little concern for the problems of their students. Or preachers may speak eloquently but are then not available in times of need. Unfortunately, it is only too easy to add to this list.

We need to acknowledge also that Jesus not only sets an example for us but he also offers us the divine grace that we need in order to live in a way that is ever more thoughtful and caring. Accordingly, we need to pray for this divine help which Jesus wants so much to find in us.

September 21, 2008

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 20:1-16a

Gospel Summary

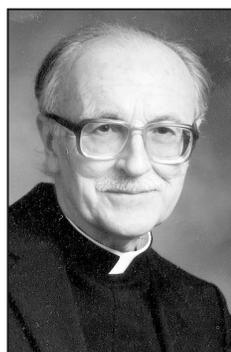
At dawn and throughout the day, the owner of a vineyard hires workers. They reach an agreement about wages; and the workers go out into the vineyard to do the work. About five o'clock, merely one hour before the end of the workday, the owner hires the last workers. To the surprise of all, he gives the last ones hired a full-day's wage. Those hired first think they will receive more, and grumble when they are paid the agreed-upon wage. The owner of the vineyard responds: "Are you envious because I am generous?"

Life Implications

The unredeemed situation represented by the resentment of the workers about the vineyard owner's generosity is essentially similar to our own experience. It is the human tendency to impose our way of thinking upon God. Warning against this form of idolatry, making a god in our image and likeness, is apparent through the entire biblical narrative. Think, for example, of Job's friends who could not imagine that God might not be defined by their quite orthodox theology. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord" (Is 55:8).

Jesus in his parable is certainly not abrogating the valid and necessary principles of justice. Rather he is giving us an opportunity to grasp that God's nature is to be extravagantly generous, beyond the rational rules of exchange. How do you find parables to suggest the possibility of love to someone who has never experienced a relationship beyond that of a business contract? I recall struggling to find helpful analogies (parables) when asked by a friend, blind from birth, to explain the difference in feeling between seeing red and blue.

Jesus himself is the best parable of the extravagantly generous God. He makes far too much wine at the Cana wedding; far too much bread for the hungry crowd; he tells a story about forgiving a debt far too large ever to be paid; and he tells us to forgive, not seven times, but seventy times seven. And as the ultimate revelation of extravagant affection, he willingly gives up his life for us on a cross. Paul refers to "Christ crucified" as foolishness to



**Champion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.**

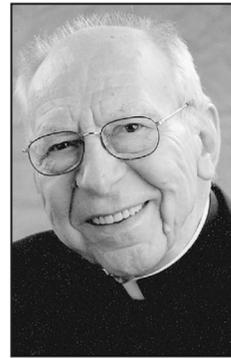
human wisdom (1 Cor 1:22-25).

The good news of the gospel is that we share the extravagantly generous Spirit of Jesus. Sometimes we too can act with extravagant generosity, beyond the rational rules of justice. God's kingdom is meant to be a new order of grace. Isn't there always something unexpected and wonderful about a gift of love, even a kind word? A gift is never earned in the way that a wage is earned, and expected.

Apparently, Jesus does not want a church of J. Aldred Prufrocks, people carefully measuring out their lives with coffee spoons (T.S. Eliot's image).

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Way of Love, Part II



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

In chapter thirteen of his First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul wrote: "Now I will show you the way which surpasses all the others..."

"Love is patient, love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

"Love never fails. Prophecies will cease, tongues will be silent, knowledge will pass away. Our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect. When the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. When I became a man I put childish ways

aside. Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. My knowledge is imperfect now; then I shall know even as I am known. There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love." (vss.1 and 4-13)

In his Second Letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes: "Therefore, show these men the proof of your love, and why we boast about you, for all the churches to see." (8:24)

Galatians 5:13-15: "Out of love, place yourselves at one another's service. The whole law has found its fulfillment in this one saying: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' If you go on biting and tearing one another to pieces, take care! You will end up in mutual destruction.

1 Timothy 1:5: "What we are aiming at in this warning is the love that springs from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith."

1 John 3:18: "Little children, let us love in deed and in truth and not merely talk about it."

1 John 4:18: "Love has no room for fear, rather, perfect love casts out all fear. And since fear has to do with punishment, love is not yet perfect in one who is afraid."

As plants require sun and water-daily, so, too, does love. Love is not something that can be packaged and set on a shelf as a permanent possession. Love has to be nurtured both to keep it alive and to strengthen it. Without this attention, love, once as strong as steel, can become as fragile as a snowflake.

Love is soul to soul, involving mind and intellect, the power of a free will, and the emotions of the heart. These come into play during times of contentment and peace, in times of doubt and stress, during times of plenty and of want. The experience of life is such that all of these experiences come to pass, sometimes unexpectedly, sometimes foreseen, sometimes with finality. Love is the sinew that keeps its bond from fracturing, from being reduced to ashes, from resulting in acrimony.

This love must be rooted in our Savior and Redeemer Jesus Christ. "He who lives in me and I in him, will produce abundantly, for apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

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JEDNOTA

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Mass In Slovak to be Celebrated

A Mass in the Slovak language will be celebrated on Wednesday, September 17, 2008, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona, Pennsylvania, at 9:30 a.m. The public is invited to participate.

The Mass will begin the biannual meeting of the Conference of Slovak Clergy. Five American Bishops of Slovak ancestry are expected to attend, in addition to priests and deacons from the sixty-plus membership of the Conference in the United States.

The Conference of Slovak Clergy was formed on April 22, 1985. Its prime purpose is to assist financially students preparing themselves for leadership roles within the various Diocesan Churches in the Republic of Slovakia.

Our Lady of Levoca

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sound after years of hiding. The pilgrimages restarted and grew tremendously by the last years of the 1980s.

Several places in the United States, in addition to Bedford, have had Slovak pilgrimage sites. I'm sure there are or were more than I personally know of but they include Holy Hill, Wisconsin, Haverstraw, N.Y., Uniontown, PA, Valparaiso, Indiana and Danville, PA.

From my personal knowledge I know that at Holy Hill, Wisconsin (about 30 miles northwest of Milwaukee) for over 75 years Slovak pilgrims from Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana came for pilgrimage at the Carmelite Marian Shrine over the Labor Day period. In the 1930's and 40's and into the 50's several thousand people would come via train, bus and on foot to pray, sing and have a cultural experience, most if not all, in the Slovak language. After World War II more people had cars and the younger people would drive their families and their older parents as a family group.

Gradually, as I am sure was repeated at many of these pilgrimage sites, the gradual aging of the "old timers", assimilation and other changes within their families diminished the crowds. At Holy Hill, Wisconsin the crowds diminished to a point in the 1970's and 1980's where there was a question of survival. But with the determination of a core of people, the tradition continues with increased numbers in recent years, with a Krizova Cesta and Mass in Slovak, with more middle aged people "connecting to their roots" in a spiritual way.

Hopefully, that renewed spirit will translate to increased numbers at all the remaining pilgrimage sites in the United States.

Look at your own area and consider supporting and visiting these sites with your families.

The Jednota welcomes any notices of these pilgrimages still held. Also, if you have a personal remembrance, please consider submitting an article for the newspaper. Send it to our Editor, Mr. Sutherland.

Maybe I will see you at the shrine of Our Lady of Levoca some day.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY BEFORE THE ISSUE DATE, unless otherwise stated below because of special holiday scheduling. Copy that is not received by this deadline will not necessarily appear in the following Wednesday's issue.

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15	MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

Correspondents who are announcing upcoming events should remember that the JEDNOTA is printed EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY, and should take into account the extra time lost in the postal system. Therefore, please plan to have your announcements to us in ample time for them to be printed and received by the readership.

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:
Anthony Sutherland, Editor
"JEDNOTA"

1001 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835
FAX: (717) 944-3107

If each member would sign up just one new member,

we could double our Society immediately

THINK ABOUT IT!

Attention Members of the Pittsburgh District West Mifflin Seminar

The First Catholic Slovak Union Membership and Marketing Committee will hold a Sales Seminar on Sunday October 12, 2008, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Hall in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania beginning at 1:30 p.m.

This Seminar is available to all Branch Officers, District Officers and Recommenders in the Pittsburgh District, District 6. Any First Catholic Slovak Union member interested in learning about and selling insurance and annuity products is also urged to attend this seminar. Form a car pool and get involved in sales.

Please be sure to make your reservations by calling either Executive Secretary, Kenneth Arendt at 1-800-533-6682 or George Matta II, District President at (412) 672-5330 by October 6, 2008.

See you on October 12th

Until then...

Good Luck and God Bless

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice President
Chairman, Membership and Marketing Committee

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Annual St. Andrew Abbey Benefit Set for November 2

The annual St. Andrew Abbey Benefit will be held on Sunday, November 2, 2008 at the Church of the Assumption, 9183 Broadview Road, Broadview Heights, Ohio. Mass will be celebrated at 12:15 p.m. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, entertainment and Slovak auction will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. We will be honoring Abbot Clement Zeleznik, O.S.B. on his retirement, and welcoming the new Abbot Christopher Schwartz, O.S.B. Catering will be provided by Tom's Country Place. Ticket prices begin at \$65.00 for an individual ticket. Additional sponsorships including a \$100.00 Honor a Monk level are available. If you need additional information, please contact Marie A. Golias at 216/228-8179 or Bill Andrews at 216/721-5300 x 252.

Insights and Viewpoints

Reflections on Our Christianity

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As strong as is the bond of love between lover and beloved, that love needs an anchor that not only keeps the bond safe but also nourishes it through Christ's love for us, through his grace, through his closeness to us in our prayers. "Anyone who loves me will be true to my word, and my Father will love him; we will come to him and make our dwelling place with him." (John 15:23)

Love in deed, practiced daily, has a variety of expressions. It is verbal, it is touching, it is giving, it is personal, it is compassionate, understanding, supporting, aiding, and defending. It is there in the relationship and is treasured and can be counted upon without seeking it.

In "Song," Thomas Lovell wrote, "How many times do I love thee again? Tell me how many beads there are in a silver chain of evening rain, unraveled from the tumbling main, and threading the eye of a yellow star-so many times do I love again."

In her poem, "How Do I Love Thee," Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote in part, "I love thee to the level of everyday's most quiet need, by sun and candlelight...I love thee with the breath, smiles, tears of all my life!- and, if God chooses, I shall but love thee better after death."

Love is not directed to the body for it is but the container of the soul, where the seed of love lies awaiting its awakening. The body begins its demise on the day of its birth. The soul then begins its journey to an eternity of happiness with Jesus Christ, the meanwhile seeking that bonding that enables and supports the way.

This love is the same that directs certain souls to bond with Jesus Christ in religious life. These persons have been called to walk in his footsteps with their hand clasped in his as we read in Isaiah and Jeremiah: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine... because you are precious in my eyes and glorious and because I love you." (Isaiah 43:1,4)

And Jeremiah 1:5: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you."

"Greet one another with the embrace of true love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ." (1Peter 5:14)

Apostleship of Prayer Intentions for September 2008

General Intention

Refugees. That Christians may defend and protect refugees.

Jesus Christ identified with the victims of this world. He said, "Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did it for me" (Mt. 25:40). Jesus could well identify with refugees because he began his own life on earth as a refugee, forced to seek asylum in Egypt until the death of King Herod.

We live in a world where the existence of refugees has become commonplace-despite the fact that 35 million "of our fellow human beings are uprooted and relegated to miserable and painful conditions." Pope Benedict XVI has spoken passionately that "these, our brothers and sisters, so badly tested by suffering, should be guaranteed asylum and the recognition of their rights" (Holy See's United Nations Address on Refugees October 2, 2007; World Refugee Survey, 2007)

But how can we care when we are overwhelmed year after year by heart-wrenching photographs and mindboggling statistics portraying this suffering? Even those who have been touched in the past to give to relief organizations often succumb to "donor fatigue." Only by the grace of God can we open and reopen our hearts to those millions who are pushed from place to place or are forced to live in camps for indefinite periods of time.

Pope Benedict has put refugees at the top of our prayer list for September. As the Vicar of Jesus Christ, he asks us to open our minds and our hearts to displaced people. He wants us to pray that all Christians may defend and protect refugees.

The Pope believes that today's refugees should be granted various rights appropriate to their dignity as persons created by God. What are these rights? Specifically, the Pope declares that refugees have the rights of asylum, emergency relief, legal residency status, employment, housing, education, health care, and family unity. We pray for refugees.

Reflection. How will you seek to protect and defend refugees you may encounter in your own community?

Mission Intention

Christian Families. That every Christian family may be a small evangelizing community which is responsive to the needs of others.

In his 2008 World Day of Peace Message, the Pope celebrated the family, calling it "a cradle of life and love" and "the primary place of humanization for the person and society." Because it is our smallest social unity, the family is the basic building block of all civilizations.

The definition of a good family is that family members take care of one another. Because of our bonds of love and shared history, we are there for each other in good times and bad. We Christians, in particular, honor the closeness of the Holy Family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. We seek similarly close ties in our own families. We seek to build our family relationships on love, starting of course with the ever-growing love between husband and wife.

But this month the Pope wants us to look a little beyond our immediate families. He asks us to pray that all Christian families may open themselves to caring about other families and other individuals. He understands that a family that is filled with Christian joy is a powerful force for attracting others to the faith.

We pray this month that Christian families, including our own, may be responsive to the needs of others. We strive to embrace others in need as we embrace our own family members in need, seeking only their good. We will try to open our eyes and notice what concrete good we can do, however small. Our God, who is Love, is revealed in the loving things we do.

There is no more powerful witness to God's love to those who do not know it than to see a family that is healthy and happy, that supports each other in difficulties, and that takes time to reach out in honest love to others.

We pray with Pope Benedict that every Christian family may be responsive to the need of others. We pray also that our own families may abide in the love of the Holy Family.

Reflection. How do you as a family share the love of God among yourselves? How do you open up this love to those outside your family?

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Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, a cancellation or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Rd., Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA; Fax: 1-800-642-4310; E-mail: FCSU@aol.com

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

*Certified Public Accountant
Certified Financial Planner
Personal Financial Specialist
(AICPA)*



Financial Advice for the “Sandwich Generation”

Many Baby Boomers are trying to balance supporting a parent while also either raising a youngster or providing financial help to an adult child, according to the Pew Research Center. These responsibilities can put a squeeze on adults in their middle years, sometimes known as the “Sandwich Generation.” This group should take a number of steps to cope with competing financial demands.

Set Up a College Fund

Over the past decade, tuition and fees rose 54 percent at four-year public universities and 33 percent at four-year private colleges, according to the College Board. Given this continuous rise, CPAs advise parents to begin setting aside money as early as possible for this significant expense and to investigate tax-advantaged savings options such as 529 plans.

Educate Yourself about Your Parents’ Finances

Adult children often are reluctant to question their parents about money, but it’s important to understand their financial situation so you can be prepared to help them when they need it. Ideally, you want to determine what they receive in pension and Social Security payments and how much they have in savings. Find out about fixed expenses, too, such as mortgage or rent and utilities. Don’t forget medical expenses, including the cost of health care insurance, medications, and provisions for emergencies. Asking your parents about these details may be awkward, but when you are informed you are in a better position to help.

Investigate Long-Term Care Insurance

Family finances can be devastated by lengthy nursing home stays or in-home care costs. That’s why you have to find out whether your parents have long-term care insurance to cover these expenses. If they are not paying for this insurance themselves, double check to see if it is part of their former employer’s retirement package. If they’re not covered, consider whether this insurance would be a wise choice.

Don’t Neglect Your Own Needs

You can’t help others if you are not on firm financial ground yourself. Remember to continue to set aside money for your own retirement. Be sure to take advantage of tax-deferred savings options, such as your employer’s 401 (k) plan or an individual retirement account, to maximize your earnings. By focusing on your retirement, you’ll set the foundation for a secure financial future and ensure that your own children will not have to help you in your later years.

A special Web site has been created that addresses financial concerns at every life stage. Go to www.360financialliteracy.org and click on “Sandwich Generation” to learn more about the special issues facing this group. Your local CPA can offer you advice on all the financial challenges facing your family.

Coming Events



September 16

A meeting of the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Rectory, Youngstown, Ohio.

September 21

A meeting of the Prince Rastislav District at 12:00 noon at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall, Montreal, Quebec.

September 28

The SS. Cyril and Methodius District’s Annual Meeting at Holy Family Church, Gibson and Washington Streets, Scranton, Pennsylvania. Mass at 10:30 a.m. followed by dinner and meeting.

October 5

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District’s Annual Meeting in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania. Mass at 11:00 a.m. in Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Church followed by dinner and meeting at Gil’s Catering Service, 5051 Mahanoy Street.

October 26

The Michigan District’s Annual Meeting at St. Patrick’s Ryan Church Hall, 4708 South Meridian Road, Merrill, Michigan. Dinner at 11:30 a.m. followed by the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

November 2

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District’s Annual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois.

Foundation Disagrees with Changing Church Site

The preliminary recommendations of the Call to Holiness and Mission project of the Diocese of Scranton were released recently. The next several weeks will be dedicated to the study and conservation with the parishioners of all churches in the area.

The Planning Commission recommended to change the site of Sacred Heart of Jesus/St. John’s Parish in Wilkes-Barre to St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish. The Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation, Inc. considers this recommendation to be an ill informed and poorly researched decision arrived at without parishioner involvement. In June the Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation submitted to the Scranton Diocese a 16-page dissenting opinion which also contained 25 exhibits and charts detailing finances, statistics, etc. supporting the case for Sacred Heart/St. John’s Church as the most logical future site of the Catholic Community of North Wilkes-Barre.

The Foundation presented its dissenting opinion to all the parishioners of Sacred Heart/St. John’s Church at a meeting on August 25, 2008, at the Ramada Hotel in Wilkes-Barre. The purpose of the meeting was to present options and choices available to the parishioners and core team. The Foundation believed the information provided at this meeting prepared parishioners to participate at the official “Parish Conservation”, that took place on August 26 at St. Stanislaus. This meeting was designed by the Diocese to give every parishioner a “Last Chance” opportunity to voice their position on the proposed closing of the church and the future of the parish.



Annual Mother of Sorrows Pilgrimage Set for September 14

The Youngstown Slovak Catholic Federation will host the 15th Annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Mother of Sorrows on Sunday, September 14, 2008, at the beautiful National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, 2757 Lipkey Road, North Jackson, Ohio. The shrine is designed as a place of Pilgrimage with all appropriate rights and privileges.

The anointing of the sick will be held at 3:00 p.m. followed by the Outdoor Way of the Cross led by Msgr. Cyril Adamko. Confessions will be heard in English and Slovak in the chapel. Slovak Mass will begin at 4:00 p.m. preceded by Slovak hymns. Bishop Edward Pevec will preside and preach. The Rev. George M. Franko will be the principal celebrant. Other attending priests will concelebrate the Mass with Father Franko.

Following the liturgy, dinner will be served in the shrine dining hall. Tickets are \$13.00, and may be purchased in advance from SCF members or by calling 330/782-9126 or 330/793-5338.

In recent years the pilgrimage has become very popular with members from the Youngstown area. Visitors from neighboring cities and states have also come to worship and celebrate with us. The Slovak Catholic Federation officers and members extend a cordial invitation to all and hope that you will join us in worship.

Ane Marie Vidis



New England Fraternal Congress-2008 Awards

The New England Fraternal Congress is accepting applications for its scholarship program. All members of the First Catholic Slovak Union residing in New England are eligible. Two \$500.00 Scholarships will be awarded to students in their sophomore, junior, senior year in college or graduate school. For guidelines and an application, contact Marion Varga, Chair, Scholarship Committee, 699 Wormwood Hill Rd., Storrs-Mansfield, CT 06268,

To obtain a nomination form for the Family of the Year award, write to Joseph Goda, 85 Valleyview Rd., Stratford, CT 06614.

To receive information and a nomination form for Fraternalist of the Year award, contact Serge Beaudoin, 122 Rustic Oak Dr., Southington, CT 06489.

The deadline for all of the above applications is September 15, 2008. A stamped addressed envelope would be appreciated.

Eileen S. Wilson, Chair, Education & Programs



Seeing History and Being Part of It

I wonder just how many people still living saw Father Andrew Hlinka in Europe or when he came to the United States in 1926. And I wonder how many people saw Robert William Seton Watson, the noted champion of Slovak rights in Hungary before World War I. If you saw these individuals and would like to share your memories contact Dr. Edward Tuleya, 106 North Prince St., Millersville, PA 17551.

Edward A. Tuleya, Br. 278

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Valentine M. Petrosky Branch 199 Hostetter, Pennsylvania



Valentine M. Petrosky, 87, of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, died July 7, 2008, in Loyalhanna Care Center.

Born March 28, 1921, in Latrobe, he was a son of the late Valentine and Martha (Slotta) Petrosky. Valentine had been retired from Vulcan Mold & Iron Co., and had been a World War II veteran, having served in the Marine Corps. He was also a former officer at Vulcan Credit Union, and a member of American Legion Post 515.

Valentine was preceded in death by his parents and a number of brothers and sisters. He is survived by his wife, Helen A. (Kampinsky) Petrosky of Latrobe; two sons, Edward Petrosky and his wife, Lorraine, of Latrobe, and Thomas Petrosky and Karen Sarp of Latrobe; three daughters, Rita Petrosky of Latrobe, Jean Brown and her husband, Russell, of Acme, and Nancy Layton of Youngwood; a brother, George Petrosky of Latrobe; 10 grandchildren, Amy Griffith, David Petrosky, Jenna Paulat, Brian Petrosky, Michael Petrosky, Kara Petrosky, Lisa Layton, Thomas J. Petrosky, Cortney Petrosky and Lorenzo Sarp; and six great-grandchildren, Tyler and Jacob Griffith, Mason, Carter, Clayton, and Reese Petrosky.

A Funeral mass was celebrated in Saint Vincent Basilica. Interment was in St. Mary's Cemetery. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the John J. Lopatich Funeral Home, Latrobe.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 300 Penn Center Blvd., Suite 602, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

Sophie Pipak

Shelley Facemyer Branch 199 Hostetter, Pennsylvania

Shelley (Fajt) Facemyer, 46, of Unity Township, Pennsylvania, died Thursday, July 10, 2008, at Excelsa Health Latrobe Hospital.

She was born July 8, 1962 in Latrobe, a daughter of Ruth P. (Murray) Fajt of Unity Township, and the late Francis A. Fajt Jr.

Shelley was a very creative graphic designer at The Palace Printer in Greensburg, her family business. She was also a member of St. Cecilia Catholic Church, Whitney. She was the most loving, caring and giving person.

In addition to her father she was preceded in death by her grandparents, Francis and Anna Fajt and Charles and Ruth Murray.

In addition to her mother she is survived by her husband, Douglas Facemyer, at home; her daughter, Kristen Facemyer, at home; her brother, Charles Fajt, of Unity Township; her sister, Vicki Blake and husband, David, of Unity Township; mother and father-in-law, Charles and Dorothy Facemyer of Derry Township; brother and sister-in-law Greg and Paula Facemyer of Unity Township; a niece, Ashley Fajt; three nephews, Joshua Fajt, Matthew Facemyer and Nicholas Blake; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends that loved and respected her dearly.

Friends were received at the Gaut-Bacha Funeral Home, Pleasant Unity. A Funeral mass was celebrated in St. Cecilia Church, with the Rev. Peter Augustine Pierjok, O.S.B., as celebrant. Interment was in St.

Vincent Cemetery, Unity Township.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Cecilia Church Debt Reduction Fund, P.O. Box 80, Whitney, PA 15693.

Sophie Pipak

Albert J. Petro Branch 356P Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania



Albert J. Petro, 87, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, died Monday, August 11, 2008, at Holy Spirit Hospital. Born August 26, 1920 in Wilkes-Barre, he was a son of the late George E. and Anna Miklas Petro. Albert was a veteran of World War II during which he served in the Army's 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion and he retired from the Ships Parts Control Center, Mechanicsburg where he had worked as an inventory management specialist. He was a member of, and former Lector at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Mechanicsburg, and served as a Board of Directors Emeritus of Members 1st Federal Credit Union. Other memberships included VFW Post 6704, the Mechanicsburg American Legion Post 109, the Bonneauville Catholic War Veterans Post 1342, the First Catholic Slovak Union, and the Mechanicsburg Veterans Council. In addition, he belonged to the Almech Bowling League and the Friday Night Mixed League, formerly serving as a secretary for both leagues.

Albert was preceded in death by his wife, Rose M. Petro.

He is survived by his daughter Denice Petro Brown of Port Deposit, Maryland; a son, Duane A. Petro of Mechanicsburg; 2 brothers, George Petro of Pittsburgh and Frank Petro of South Bend, Indiana; a sister, Irene Matisak of Manville, New Jersey; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at the Malpezzi Funeral Home, Mechanicsburg. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Joseph Catholic Church with the Rev. Chester P. Snyder as celebrant. Memorial contributions may be made to either St. Joseph Church, P.O. Box 2012, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055, or to the American Red Cross, 1804 North 6th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

George Vukovcan Branch 60 McKeesport, Pennsylvania



George Vukovcan, 64, of Port Vue, Pennsylvania, formerly of New Jersey, died Monday, June 9, 2008, at home. He was the son of Margaret Gdovic Vukovcan and the late George M. "Yutie" Vukovcan. He was a retired salesman. He was a U.S. Air Force Sergeant during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the American Legion in Port Vue, and Branch 60 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

He is survived by his mother Margaret Vukovcan with whom he resided; sisters, Patricia L. (Larry) Day of Waldorf, Maryland, and Gladys (Ray) Bacco of Duluth, Georgia; and nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at the Daniel F. Bekavec Funeral Home and Crematory, Versailles, PA. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Martin de Porres Church, McKeesport. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Port Vue.

The officers and members of Branch 60 express their deepest sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

Margaret M. Perla

Joseph Jambor Branch 60 McKeesport, Pennsylvania



Joseph A. Jambor, 84, of Glassport, Pennsylvania, died Saturday, August 2, 2008. He was the son of the late Andrew and Elizabeth Kapsar Jambor. He worked one year at Copperweld and was retired from Fisher Body in West Mifflin where he worked for 35 years. He was a member of American Legion Post 443 in Glassport, Branch 60 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, past financial secretary at Fisher Body, UAW retirees, past president of Clairton Hill AARP 2862, member of St. Martin de Porres Parish in McKeesport, and served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the 409 Bomb Group Squad 641.

He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline James Jambor; a sister, Betty Jambor Gaydos; nieces and nephews; great nieces and great nephews. He was preceded in death by a brother, John Jambor, and a sister, Margaret Jambor Mauick.

Friends were received at the Wojciechowski Funeral Home, Glassport. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Martin de Porres Church. Interment followed in Calvary Cemetery, Port Vue. Memorial contributions may be made to Long Run Childrens Learning Center, 1109 Long Run Road, White Oak, PA 15131.

The officers and members of Branch 60 express their deepest sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

Margaret M. Perla

Anna Vida Branch 493 Chicago, Illinois

Anna Vida, 100, the oldest member of the Assumption of the B.V. M. Society, branch 493 in Chicago, died December 28, 2007. She was born April 20, 1907, in Dolna Suca, Slovakia, a daughter of Ondrej and Maria Kucera Michalik. At age 22, she immigrated to America to join cousins in Chicago. In 1934 he married Martin P. Vida in Assumption B.V.M. Church in Chicago. He died in 1976.

Anna worked as a sales associate in the clothing industry for many years. She was also a long time member of the Slovak Athletic Association and an accomplished cook and baker.

Survivors include her daughter, Mary Ann (John) Gardelka; granddaughters, Elizabeth, Margaret and Jennifer; great-grandchildren, Katherine, Sean and Sarah; and many nieces and nephews in the United States and Slovakia. Her niece, Rosemary Mlinarich, serves as the First Vice President of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her son Fred and daughter Pauline.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Leonard Church in Berwyn, Illinois, where Anna was a parishioner for 63 years. Interment was in Resurrection Cemetery in Justice, Illinois.

Robert Tapak Magruder

Donald E. Derma Branch 493 Chicago, Illinois

Donald E. Derma, 67, a lifelong Jednotar, died December 17, 2007. He is survived by his wife Arlene; children, Theodore (Christiane), Teresa (Daniel) Riner, Todd (Joanna), Timothy and Thomas (Kenzie); grandchildren, Benjamin and Bryce Riner, and Grayson Derma; and sister, Marilyn Taulbee, all of whom belong to the FCSU.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Itasca, Illinois. Interment followed in All Saints Cemetery.

Donald grew up in Sacred Heart Slovak Parish in the Ukrainian Village neighborhood on Chicago's West Side. His father Emil Derma served for many years as the president of the Cadets of St. Andrew Society, Branch 647, which merged with the Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, in 2001. Branch 493 president, Ed Kedzuch and uncle of Donald, represented the branch at the funeral.

Robert Tapak Magruder



“Park 2 Annuity” - Now Paying 4.50%

Under the “Park 2 Annuity”, you can make a one-time deposit of at least \$1,000.00 into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at a guaranteed rate for two years. Additional deposits are not allowed.

Features of the “Park 2 Annuity” include:

- The FCSU guarantees your initial interest rate for two years. After two years, your funds will continue to accumulate interest at no less than 3.00%
- The “Park 2 Annuity” can be converted to any of the FCSU Annuity Plans at any time.
- The “Park 2 Annuity” is not applicable to any settlement option or interest option.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Funds withdrawn during the first two years are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. The charge is 6% the first year and 5% the second year. You may, however, withdraw up to 10% of your “beginning of year balance” with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- The minimum deposit is \$1,000.
- Please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office for applications.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT-WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. in the formation room of Saint Florian Roman Catholic Church, United, Pennsylvania. Please note that this meeting is being held at an earlier date to give us more time to organize and advertise our annual Stedry Vecer. Representatives of each branch are requested to attend.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

REV. MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT-BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The Rev. Matthew Jankola District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 14, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, now called "The Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut. The election of District officers will be held at this meeting. Members of the various branches are encouraged to attend this Annual Meeting.

Jacqueline Zack, Secretary

SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS DISTRICT-LACKAWANNA & LUZERNE COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA, AND BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

The SS. Cyril and Methodius District will hold its Annual Summer Picnic on Sunday, September 14, 2008, from 10:30 a.m. to dusk at McDade Park, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

The event will begin with a continental breakfast sponsored by Branch 382 of Scranton and Branch 166 of Binghamton. A catered lunch featuring Slovak foods will be served at 12:45 p.m. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be grilled to order in the afternoon. Snacks will be available throughout the afternoon until the end of the picnic at dusk.

Admission is \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children under 10 years of age. Reservations are required. To make reservations, contact District 17 Fraternal Activities Director Elizabeth Slovenkai at 570/344-3854 before Friday, September 5, 2008.

Members and friends of the FCSU are cordially invited.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai

PRINCE RASTISLAV DISTRICT-QUEBEC, CANADA

The Prince Rastislav District will hold a meeting on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at 12:00 noon at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall, Montreal, Quebec. Members are urged to attend.

Anthony S. Makovsky, President

REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT-ILLINOIS, INDIANA AND WISCONSIN

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Sunday, November 2, 2008, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. A short period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments will begin at 1:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 2:00 p.m. All District branches are encouraged to send delegates. A delicious catered meal will be served. In order to ensure an adequate supply of food and beverages, please contact District President John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810 if you plan to attend.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT-ILLINOIS, INDIANA AND WISCONSIN

Members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District are encouraged to attend this year's Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar to be held Sunday, September 28, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Casimir, 2601 West Marquette Road, on the south side of Chicago, Illinois. The topic will be "Pictures of the Old Country". Professional film maker Susan Marcinkus will show the film she produced about her grandmother's immigration to America from Slovakia. Her 45 minute film has been shown on PBS. A buffet lunch will be served after the seminar. Admission is \$15.00 for pre-registration (by September 7), and \$20.00 at the door. For information, call John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810, or Gerry Hletko at 708/387-7812.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT-EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 5, 2008, in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in the Blessed Teresa Calcutta Church, 614 West Mahanoy Avenue, Mahanoy City. Dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m. in Gil's Catering Service, 5051 Mahanoy Street. Donation for dinner is \$13.00. The meeting will be called to order at 1:30 p.m. Make checks payable to Branch 112 and send the check along with your credentials by September 29. Please send them back on time so I can call the caterers.

For more information call Helen Fiala at 610/434-8614. Hope to see many delegates at the meeting. May God bless and watch over you.

Helen Fiala, Secretary

REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT-YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik will hold a meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory, Youngstown, Ohio.

Carlie Peshek, President

MICHIGAN DISTRICT-MICHIGAN

The Michigan District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 26, 2008, at St. Patrick's Ryan Church Hall, 4708 South Meridian Road (M30), Merrill, Michigan. A Thanksgiving Dinner will be served starting at 11:30 a.m. followed by the business meeting at 12:15 p.m. Branch 774 is the host for this meeting.

Please notify Irene Pacholka at 989/687-5419 by October 19 with the number of delegates attending from your branch.

Since this is our annual meeting, the election of officers will be on the agenda along with a discussion of new events for the coming year. Our District President Victor Jiomkowski encourages all branches to send delegates to represent their branch.

Anna Magusin, Secretary

SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS DISTRICT-LUZERNE & LACKAWANNA COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA AND BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

The SS. Cyril and Methodius District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at Holy Family Church, Gibson and Washington Streets, Scranton, Pennsylvania. Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. followed by dinner and the meeting. Reservations should be made with President Michael Slovenkai at 342-7562, Treasurer/Financial Secretary Dorothy Ungvarsky at 403-2067, or Vice President Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896. The election of officers will take place at this meeting. Plan to attend and meet your fellow members and officers. Get the latest information on Jednota's activities, insurance and convention rules. Your presence can make a difference. Help to keep your district and branches alive and make the society meaningful and interesting for the young and young at heart.

The summer picnic will be held on Sunday, September 14 at McDade Park, Scranton. Call Elizabeth Slovenkai at 570/344-3854 for information and to make your reservation.

Theresa Chupka, Recording Secretary



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Kenneth A. Arendt

Attention all District and Branch Officers!

At the 48th Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union held in Boca Raton, Florida in July 2006, it was agreed that in order to qualify for your \$4.00 per member stipend for 2008 you must meet the following requirements as stated in the Bylaw section 4.05:

"By the end of February of each year, the Home Office shall pay each local branch \$4.00 per member, per year, not to exceed \$8,000.00, provided the local branch has fulfilled the following requirements:

(a) Published, announced and conducted two (2) semiannual meetings, one (1) of which shall be an annual meeting held for the election of officers. Meeting attendance sheets shall accompany the reports submitted to the Executive Secretary.

(b) Submitted an annual report to the Executive Secretary on a form provided, by February 15th of the following year.

(c) Submitted a financial report to the Executive Secretary on a form provided, by February 15th of the following year.

(d) Hosted, sponsored, promoted, or attended at least one fraternal activity in the past year.

(e) Produced at least one (1) new contract in the previous calendar year. Branches with two hundred fifty (250) or more members must produce at least two (2) new contracts.

(f) Provided the Home Office, on a continuing basis, current addresses of members and completed change of beneficiary forms, death reports, and such other documents as required by the Home Office.

(g) Sent a branch representative to attend at least one (1) district meeting per calendar year. Those in attendance at the district meeting may vote to provide a branch with an excused absence.

1. Members attending a district meeting shall sign an attendance sheet evidencing their presence at the event. The district shall notify the Executive Secretary of those branches failing to meet this attendance requirement of article "g" above by no later than February 15th of the following year.

2. The Executive Secretary shall publish no later than March 31st of the following year in the Official Organ those branches failing to meet the requirement of section 4.05.

(h) Maintained good standing within it's district by paying current fiscal year dues and any other dues that may be outstanding from previous years."

Your branch meeting announcement for publication in the Jednota Newspaper should be sent directly to Jednota Estates, Attn: Anthony Sutherland, Editor, 1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057; Fax (717) 944-3107. Announcements may also be sent directly to the Home Office to be placed on the Branch and District Web Page. All copies are due by 4:30 p.m. the Monday before the issue date.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE BE SURE YOU
PRODUCE ONE NEW CONTRACT FOR THE YEAR.**

Jednota, Inc and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Balance Sheets
Demember 31, 2007 and 2006

ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 79,313	\$ 236,434
Accounts Receivable	52,620	14,455
Prepaid Taxes	<u>25,236</u>	<u>12,287</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>157,169</u>	<u>263,176</u>
Investment		
FCSU Branch Agreement at Market Value	<u>101,537</u>	<u>166,551</u>
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Land	162,000	162,000
Land Improvements	73,554	73,554
Building	2,846,326	2,846,326
Leasehold Improvements	<u>385,032</u>	<u>249,515</u>
	3,466,912	3,331,395
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,355,067)</u>	<u>(1,227,994)</u>
Property and Equipment - Net	<u>2,111,845</u>	<u>2,103,401</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,370,551</u>	<u>\$ 2,533,128</u>

	2007	2006
Continuing Operations		
Rental Income	<u>\$514,329</u>	<u>\$490,218</u>
Operating Expenses		
Board Expenses	9,496	6,412
Commissions	18,064	17,581
Depreciation	127,073	82,823
Insurance	6,625	6,127
Interest	157,139	164,106
Landscaping	1,900	4,860
Maintenance and Repair	49,286	23,867
Manager Expenses	9,000	8,850
Professional Fees	8,000	8,960
Taxes - Other	2,572	2,307
Taxes - Real Estate	3,524	3,408
Utilities	<u>1,380</u>	<u>1,826</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>394,059</u>	<u>331,127</u>
Income from Operations	<u>120,270</u>	<u>159,091</u>
Other Income		
Interest Income	12,072	8,694
Other Income	<u>-</u>	<u>650</u>
Total Other Income	<u>12,072</u>	<u>9,344</u>
Income Before Income Taxes	<u>132,342</u>	<u>168,435</u>
Provision for Income Taxes		
Federal	3,768	23,844
State	<u>13,330</u>	<u>16,830</u>
Total Provision for Income Taxes	<u>17,098</u>	<u>40,674</u>
Net Income	<u>\$115,244</u>	<u>\$127,761</u>

Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity

	2007	2006
Current Liabilities		
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt	\$ 113,334	\$ 105,588
Accounts Payable - Trade	15,538	13,959
Accrued Expenses	12,782	13,405
Accrued Income Taxes	50	1,709
Deferred Revenue	<u>56,360</u>	<u>28,180</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>198,064</u>	<u>162,841</u>
Long-Term Liabilities		
Mortgage Payable	<u>2,047,059</u>	<u>2,160,103</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>2,245,123</u>	<u>2,322,944</u>
Stockholders' Equity		
Common Stock - No Par Value; 750 Shares Authorized; 86 Shares Issued and Outstanding	114,380	114,380
Additional Paid-In Capital	727,424	927,424
Retained Earnings (Deficit)	<u>(716,376)</u>	<u>(831,620)</u>
Total Stockholders' Equity	<u>125,428</u>	<u>210,184</u>
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	<u>\$2,370,551</u>	<u>\$2,533,128</u>



As I See It Rudolph L. Gregus



Rudolph L. Gregus

Treasures from our Tradition

The achievement of the late 1960's and early 1970's in enriching the "euchology" or "words of thanksgiving" available in the Church's prayer is important on many levels. Ecumenically, it means that the Latin Rite now reflects the wealth of the East in having more than one prayer available to the Church. Pastorally, it actually acknowledges the place of the assembly in prayer, which is particularly clear in the Masses with children. In fact, the traditional prayers of the Eastern Church served as models for our new prayers. In the east, what we call the Eucharistic Prayer is called the anaphora, and there are three main families of anaphora. Each family has a different "recipe" for arranging the usual parts of these prayers. All anaphora have "intercessions" included, but the Churches of Antioch place them toward the end of the prayer, Alexandria prefers them at the beginning before the "Holy, Holy", and Syria puts them at the very end. One branch of the Syrian family is unique in not mentioning the words of Jesus at the Last Supper. The Roman Canon we once prayed exclusively has some connection with the Alexandrian family, but once the signal for creativity was given, all the wealth of every prayer tradition was on the table, and our Sunday Mass has been greatly enriched.

Eight Gifts that do not cost a cent

- 1-The gift of listening...But you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.
- 2-The gift of affection...be generous with the appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back, and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.
- 3-The gift of laughter...Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your friends will say, "I love to laugh with you."
- 4-The gift of a written note... It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note, or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and even change a life.
- 5-The gift of a compliment... a simple and sincere, "you look great in red" or, "you did a super job", or "That was a wonderful meal", can make someone's day.
- 6-The gift of a favor...Go out of your way to do something kind for someone.
- 7-The gift of solitude...There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.
- 8-The gift of cheerful disposition...The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone. It is not that hard to say: Hello or Thank you. Friends are a very rare jewel indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.

News From Slovakia

Matica Slovenska Celebrates its Founding Anniversary

Matica Slovenska, Slovakia's most significant cultural and social institution, celebrated its 145th anniversary on August 1-4.

The organization was originally founded in Turciansky Svaty Martin (now simply Martin) in 1863. The founding meeting drew a crowd of 5,000 people. It had rather a spiritual character, taking place first in a Catholic and later in a Protestant church. The newly-founded institution received a contribution of 1,000 zlaty from the Austrian emperor. Matica Slovenska collected a total of 94,000 zlaty in order to begin functioning.

The Matica general assembly at the same time approved a resolution according to which Matica was founded "in commemoration of the thousand-year history of Christianity and writing in Slovakia."

The Hungarian authorities, whose influence grew in Slovakia after Austria lost a war against Prussia, didn't like the idea of Matica Slovenska and closed it down in 1875. It was only allowed to begin operating again in January 1, 1919.

TASR

Slota: Matica Slovenska Needs Three Times More Money from Budget

Matica Slovenska, as Slovakia's most significant cultural and social institution, needs up to three times more money from the state budget than it was given this year, Slovak National Party (SNS) chairman Jan Slota told Slovakia at a press conference in Martin recently.

According to Slota, SNS will promote a fundamental increase in the MS subsidy from next year's budget, as this year's Sk46 million represents nothing more than a return to 1999. State support for the Matica Slovenska fell continually after 1999, before returning to the 1999 level this year. In addition, the institution has lost all its buildings, the Slovak National Library and all of its collections.

Matica Slovenska has an irreplaceable role in watching over the preservation of Slovakia's national and cultural heritage, and in maintaining the bonds between people of Slovak descent and the old homeland. As the number of such people living abroad equals Slovakia's population, adequate funds are needed to carry out this task, Slota added.

Matica Slovenska head Jozef Markus expressed his appreciation for SNS's support, not only moral, but also financial. SNS has allocated Sk6 million for the reconstruction of an amphitheatre in Martin.

TASR

Slovak Citizenship Granted to 229 Foreigners this Year

Slovak state citizenship has been granted to 229 foreigners so far in 2008, including 106 men and 123 women, the Foreign Police Office of the Interior Ministry announced recently.

The highest number of successful applicants came from Ukraine (91), followed by the Czech Republic (20), Vietnam (16), Serbia or Montenegro (13) and Romania (12).

Citizenship allows holders to participate in the political, economic and cultural life of the state.

A total of 1,117 foreigners acquired Slovak state citizenship last year, with the highest numbers coming from Ukraine (625), the Czech Republic (84), Serbia or Montenegro (72), Romania (55), Vietnam (51) and Russia (28).

According to the law on state citizenship, foreigners can obtain Slovak citizenship after eight uninterrupted years of residence in the country. Foreigners married to Slovak citizens become eligible after five years of marriage. Applicants also have to demonstrate a certain level of Slovak-language skills.

TASR

U.S. looking for New Embassy Site in Bratislava

Ever since the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, the U.S. Embassy in Slovakia has been considering moving out of its current premises on Hviezdoslav Square in Bratislava to a less-frequented site, but no suitable place has been found as yet, the embassy's Information Officer Keith Hughes told Slovakia.

"There aren't any negotiations taking place with the City Council concerning an offer of an alternative package at the moment," said Hughes. According to him, the embassy requires a suitable site where new premises could be built. "It should provide a comfortable working environment for our Slovak and American employees while meeting the security criteria," he said, without naming any possible locations.

The embassy is considering several factors. A key criterion, however, is distance from the premises of the Slovak Government and other institutions that the embassy deals with.

TASR

Shooter Stefecekova Takes Silver in Beijing

Zuzana Stefecekova won Slovakia's first medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics on August 18, taking silver in the women's trap (clay pigeon) shooting competition with 89 hits.

The gold medal went to Finland's Satu Makela-Nummela with 91 hits, while American Corey Cogdell won the bronze.

The 24-year-old Stefecekova will receive a reward of 600,000 crowns from the Slovak Olympics Committee.

TASR



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY INTEREST RATES

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

Effective July 1, 2008

The annual yield on existing
First Catholic Slovak Union Flexible Premium
Deferred Retirement Annuity and Individual

Retirement Account (IRA) is 5.00% (4.879% APR).

The annual yield on the Park 2 Annuity
is 4.50% (4.402% APR).

Six Year Fixed Rate Annuity and Six Year Fixed
Rate Annuity IRA is 4.50% (4.402% APR).

The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash
Interest" Option will be 4.75% (4.641% APR).

If you have any questions about our annuities or
IRAs, please contact the Home Office at

1-800-JEDNOTA or your local Branch Officer.

*THESE RATES WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2008*

Kenneth A. Arendt Executive Secretary

An Amazing Big Fat Slovak-American *Svadba* (Wedding)

Many of us have seen the wonderful romantic comedy, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," a film which Joel Zwick produced in 2002, starring Nia Vardalos and John Corbett. Just substitute "Slovak" for Greek, and one has a good idea of the engagement and wedding of Milenka Kopanic, the daughter of *Jednota* columnist and historian, Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr.

Milenka (Melanie) Kopanic and Paul (Art) Feighner, pulled out all the stops in celebrating their wedding day in ethnic style. It was a most unique wedding from start to finish, filled with many Slovak customs and traditions that many have long since been forgotten in so many Slovak-American households. Although Paul is not an ethnic Slovak, but of German, Polish, Irish and Welsh background, he willingly cooperated, participated in the ethnic customs, and thoroughly enjoyed himself in making this a memorable event.

In the wedding program, which featured two pages about Slovak wedding customs, Milenka wrote:

"As a member of the Kopanic/Kocurek families, I have grown up in a home that is rich in Slovak culture, customs and language. My Slovak ethnicity is a cherished part of my identity that my family shares with you today as Paul and I begin our lives together as husband and wife. We have carefully chosen our traditions, and we hope they are as meaningful to you as they are to us."

Milenka, who had a *Jednota* scholarship, had studied in Slovakia on two occasions, as well as in Mexico.

Pre-Nuptial Preparations

Her parents and bridal party gave Milenka two showers – at St. Edward's Catholic Church in Youngstown, Ohio, and a personal shower at her parents' home.

Those who go through great pains to make everything lovely for showers and weddings are quite familiar with the meticulous attention to details. The couple chose lilac (*orogovan* in Slovak) and *peridot* (a lighter green, the color of the birthstone for August) as the thematic colors for their wedding.

The wedding morning started out omi-

nously, with a slow and steady rain, but prayers would hold the storms. Mass at the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel in Loretto, Pa., featured the wonderful operatic voice of Milenka's music teacher, Clayton Burkey, accompanied by Jocelyn Sunseri, who had played with Milenka when she served as a cantor for St. Aloysius Church. Notable was his singing of the Prayer of St. Francis, a tribute to the couple's alma mater, St. Francis University.

As the ceremony began, the bride's mothers of the bride and groom, Mrs. Rebecca Kopanic and Mrs. Marty Feighner, lit a unity candle, symbolizing the joining of the two families. The wedding party included the bride's sister, Erika, as the Maid of Honor, and Paul's cousin, Chad Pritchard, the best man.

Monsignor Timothy Swope celebrated the Mass. Milenka's aunt, *Cetka* Patricia Kocurek, delivered the first reading from *Proverbs* 31: 10-31. A bridesmaid, Jan Byrne, sang a moving Responsorial Psalm, "My Soul is Thirsting for You my Lord." The groom's grandfather, Donald Pritchard, Sr. recited the Second Reading, 1 *John* 4: 7-12. In a very original and beautiful voice, Milenka sang out the Gospel Acclamation, the "Spirit and Song Alleluia." Those who had never heard her sing before were truly stunned by her poise and talent.

Following the taking of vows, and a fine sermon by Msgr. Shope, Erika Kopanic recited the Prayers of the Faithful, mentioning several deceased family members and friends. For the offertory, the fathers, Paul Feighner, Jr. and Dr. Michael Kopanic, Jr., brought up bread and wine for the Mass.

Upon finishing Mass, a Slovak tradition followed – the group picture. These were taken by the photographer, Mr. Alan P. Bixel, Milenka's former band director at Bishop Carroll High School.

Milenka wrote:

"Anyone who's ever seen a picture of an immigrant wedding knows that Slovaks commonly had one large group picture of everyone in attendance."

After the group picture, the couple processed to the back of the church, and rather hesitantly, opened the doors. The sun was shining bright and beautiful; the Lord had shone down upon them.

The Reception (*Vešela*, a time of merriment in Eastern Slovak dialect)

The wedding reception took place in an unusual setting, at "La Ferme Rouge" (The Red Farm in French), the hall is a barn converted into a banquet facility. Located near Patton, Pa., it is situated in the beautiful countryside of Pennsylvania and features a charming rustic atmosphere complete with gardens, gazebo, and plenty of ambiance (Milenka).

Each table had groups of people assigned by theme – relatives, neighbors, friends, university employees, university friends, Slovak-American friends, etc. The bride's mother spent painstaking months editing photos of these people with Milenka and Paul, and placed them a wooden framed box on each table.

The couple made a grand entrance. *Vešela začinala!* (The festivities had begun!)

Before the meal, the reception observed



Milenka Kopanic with her father Dr. Michael Kopanic.



L-R Rebecca Kopanic, Dr. Michael Kopanic Jr., Mr. Michael Kopanic and Milenka and Paul.

the Slovak custom of thanking our Lord in solemn prayer. Traditionally, that included the Our Father, a Hail Mary, and a Glory Be. Dr. Kopanic recited each first in Slovak, and then in English, followed by the typical blessing:

"Pán Boh, požehnaj nás a tieto dary ktoré sme dostali z Tvojej štedrosti. Amen."

After a toast by the best man, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal of chicken, roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, peppered corn, a salad, and of course, *halušky* (dumplings with cabbage). *Halušky* proved to be the most popular dish, the only food that had no leftovers. There was also plenty of fruit salad, cookies, punch, beer, and wine coolers for refreshments, as well as the traditional wedding cake.

Slovak Traditions

Milenka wanted to be sure that many Slovak traditions pervaded her reception, and guests commented that these were among the most enjoyable and interesting part of the party. Here are some of the highlights.

Honey, Bread & Salt

Before the dinner, both mothers of the couple gave the bride and groom a combination of honey, bread and salt. This tradition symbolized the wish of sweetness in the years to come as well as the difficulty and hard work involved in any marriage.

Breaking of the Bowl

Originally this tradition started out when a bowl was broken. The pieces indicated how many children the couple was going to have. Although some weddings still follow the old tradition, more recently Slovak weddings have featured a bridal toast and the breaking of the bride and groom's glasses. The couple then swept up the pieces together, symbolic of how they will take care of each other as a married couple. Milenka and Paul's bowl broke into 23 pieces, meaning they should have at least 23 children!

Other Traditions and Personal Touches

The couple combined some Slovak and other ethnic traditions with a few of their own ideas. They placed Japanese Lanterns above the bar.

Milenka had also studied Spanish, attended summer school in Mexico, and helped orphans in Honduras, and found a campus organization to aid these orphans. She included some Spanish customs at the reception. A Wedding *piñata* delighted the children. The blindfolded children took turns swinging at the piñata, and success brought a burst of candies to gather.

In the traditional father-daughter dance,



Milenka Kopanic and Paul Feighner.

continued on page 11

Svadba (Wedding)

continued from page 10

Milenka and her *Ta* (Dad) danced to a modern Slovak song (Zuzana Smatanová's *Pocestny – The Wayfarer*), which Milenka sang as they danced.

All the music was planned - Slovak folk music, a few polkas, pop music, modern European music, Slovak pop music, Latin music, and traditional Slovak customs were explained by myself and my two daughters.

Among them were several lively wedding polkas as well as these: *Nedal'eko od Trenčina* – (Not far from Trenčín), *"A od Prešova"* (And from the town of Prešov), and *"Po nabreží konik beží"* (On the shore the horse is running), and others.

Milenka, her father, and her dzedo (Grandfather) also sang together a verse of *"A okolo Levoči"* (Around Levoča). The song is a tribute to their ethnic roots in the Spiš of Slovakia, and it brought people to their feet in applause.

Redovy: The Slovak Bridal Dance from Eastern Slovakia

One of the last dances of any Eastern Slovak wedding is the *Redovy* (*Radovy, Rjadovy*) or the Bridal Dance, sometimes called the Dollar Dance.

All the guests at the reception typically line up for a last chance to dance with the bride. It is customary to donate money to the newly wed couple for the privilege of the dance. The money is put into an apron, basket, pocket, plate, or decorated box before dancing with the bride.

People danced with both the bride and groom, one of the couple's own additions.

The Redovy Bridal dance went so wonderfully, with two Slovak versions, and a lively Polish version, a tribute to the 25% Polish part of Milenka and Paul's roots. Dr. Kopanic and Milenka's *Dzedo* (89 years young!) sang the opening three verses.

*Redovy sa začína, redovy sa začína;
Starosta sa ošiva, starosta sa ošiva
Jak sa Pán Boh raduje, j asa Pán Boh raduje.
Matka s dievkou tancuje, matka s dievkou tancuje.
Naša mladá recece, Naša mladá recece,
Nechcela jesc perece, Nechcela jesc perece.*

Translation:

*The bridal dance is starting, the bridal dance is starting.
The host has called for the dance, the host has called for the dance.
How the Lord God is rejoicing, How the Lord God is rejoicing.
Mother is dance with the bride, mother's dancing with the bride.
Our young lady will tell you, Our young lady will tell you.
She does not want to eat pretzels, she does not want to eat pretzels.
After the father finally dances with the bride, the groom takes his turn as the last verses played.*

The Capping of the Bride

An important part of the *Redovy* ceremony followed, although in Slovak customs, it traditionally came before the bridal dance. The bride's mother, godmother and grandmothers typically removed the bride's *parte*, the headpiece which acknowledged her as a girl ready for marriage. Here Milenka substituted the veil which is used in the USA.

Since Milenka's *baby* (grandmothers) were deceased, she had her mother and father remove her veil, as a traditional Slovak *čepenie* song played.

The mother and godmother would braid her hair into a single plait and then tie it into a bun. Up until this time, the girl could wear her hair in two plaits or loose, as was the custom for children. The grandmothers then placed the *čepiec* or marriage cap (a *babuška*) on her head. She never left her home without the *čepiec* on her head after, an important step in a young woman's life. This symbolized her move from childhood to adulthood and becoming a contributing member of the village community.

A Grand Finale Surprise: Fireworks!

At the close of the reception, the couple surprised the crowd with an amazing fireworks display. The groom's friend was a professional fireworks expert and included over twice as many fireworks as a free gift, and they were far better than many fireworks displays one sees on the Fourth of July!

Koniec - Closing

This wonderful day closed with a Slovak polka and the traditional lullabye, which Milenka's father had always sang to his children: *Dobrá noc ma milá* – "Good night my darling."

The wedding was simply amazing and dozens of people said it was by far one of the best and most unique weddings they ever attended. And that included many guests with no Slovak roots.

Here are a couple of e-mails I received from members of our Slovak Heritage Society of the Laurel Highlands group that attended the wedding:

"... everything was wonderful ... one of the nicest weddings we've been to (seriously).
The little details and extra touches; very meaningful!" - Karen Mesaros

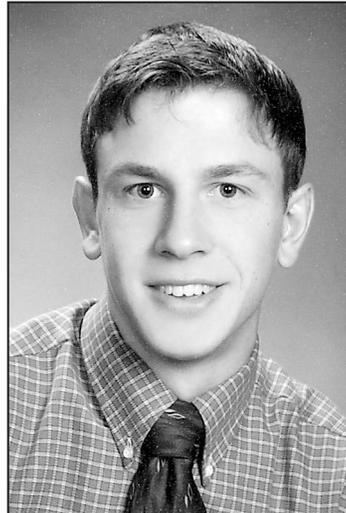
"WOW! What a magnificent wedding you made for Milenka and Art!
You should be very proud parents. We had a great time. - Ruth Kucera

D'AKUJEM

Finally, Milenka and Paul thanked everyone for all they had done for them, including the unconditional love of their parents, and most importantly, their Father in heaven, "who has blessed us with the gift of life and love. Without Him, none of this would be possible.

**Most Lovingly Yours,
Mel/Milenka & Paul
We wish the couple a long life of
love together, filled with God's many blessings.**

YOUTH ROUND-UP



Andrew Kester

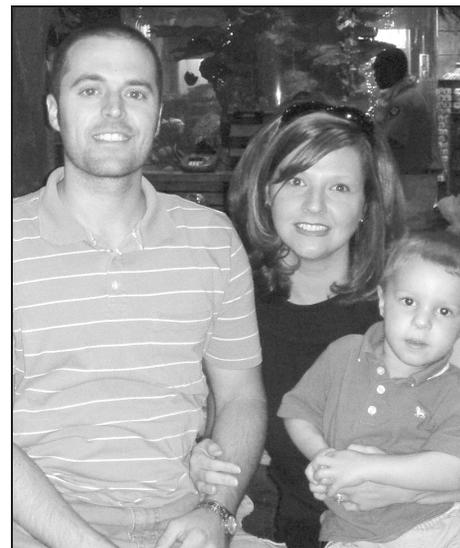


Amy Kester

Andrew Kester, a member of Branch 240P in Taylor, Pennsylvania and a senior biochemistry major at Susquehanna University, recently completed a 10-week summer volunteer internship in Udaipur, India. This program is under the direction of the Foundation for Sustainable Development, a U.S. based organization whose mission is to overcome economic challenges in developing countries and to support communities in finding effective solutions to development issues. In his duties in India, Andy was involved with activities in infrastructure development and improving the quality and access to health care for the rural inhabitants of northwestern India. In addition to his work in Udaipur and the surrounding communities, Andy's travels have taken him to the cities of New Delhi, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Agra.

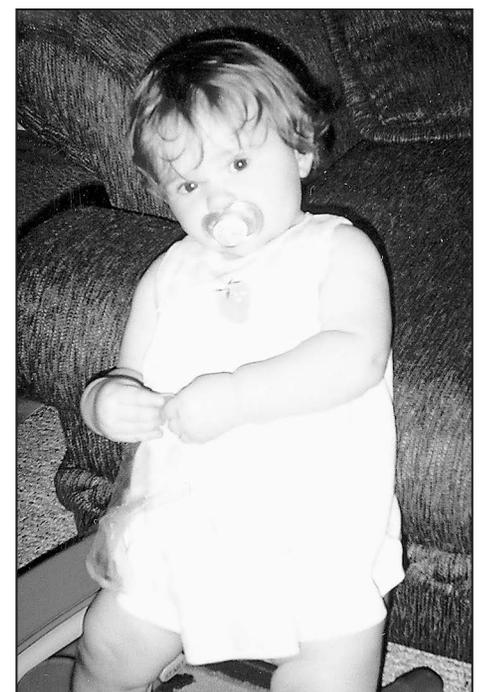
Amy Kester, Andrew's sister, was recently a participant in the Pennsylvania State Finals of the Hershey Track and Field Games at the main campus of the Pennsylvania State University in June. As a member of the Blazers track team of Easton, PA, Amy placed first in the 100 meter event for 13 and 14-year old girls, and she was also a member of the first place 4 x 100 meter relay team. Amy progressed through competition at Easton and Pottsville, PA to become eligible for the state meet. She was now eligible to participate in the Hershey North American regional competition and finals that took place in Hershey in August. In May, Amy also placed first in the 8th grade finals for the 400 meter and long-jump events at the Allentown Diocese Track & Field Championship at Holy Name High School in Reading, PA and placed second in the 100 meter final. Amy recently graduated from Notre Dame Parochial School in Bethlehem, PA.

Amy and Andy's parents are Julie and Tom Kester of Bethlehem. Along with Amy and Andy, they reside with Gregory, a senior engineering student at Penn State; Joseph, a junior at Notre Dame High School in Easton, PA; and Audrey, a fifth grade student at Hanover Elementary School in Bethlehem.



Erin Schwartz with husband Joe and son Anthony.

Erin Schwartz, daughter of National Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt and his wife Theresa, recently completed her graduate work at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Erin earned her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education and will begin her fifth year of teaching this fall. She completed her undergraduate work in Elementary Education at Ashland University in Ohio. Erin earned a 3.97 GPA in her graduate work from UNLV. Erin currently lives in Las Vegas, Nevada with her husband Joe and their two-year old son Anthony.



Kaitlyn Colby

Kaitlyn Colby recently celebrated her 1st Birthday with family and friends at her home in Schererville, Indiana. Kaitlyn is a member of the Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, in Chicago, Illinois. Her sisters Sarah, Stephanie and Elizabeth are also members of Branch 493.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2008

HOME OFFICE • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and led the prayer.

ROLL CALL

Members Attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
 George F. Matta, Treasurer, absent and excused

ACCEPTANCE OF THE JUNE MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the June, 2008 Executive Committee meeting. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

Due to the absence of the National Treasurer, the President led a discussion regarding the monthly financial reports from our custodian, Merrill Lynch, and informed the Executive Committee about his review of these reports.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK

The President, the Executive Secretary and the National Treasurer had a teleconference call with James O'Toole, Assistant Vice President of the Federal Home Loan Bank in Cincinnati, to clarify the investment programs offered to us through the Federal Home Loan Bank.

JEDNOTA NEWSPAPER

The President informed the Executive Committee that starting with the July 9, 2008 issue our Jednota newspaper was sent to 25,000 households instead of the previous 14,000.

He stated that some problems (such as duplicate mailings, changed addresses etc.) will be needed to be ironed out before the next issue. The Executive Committee believes that the Jednota newspaper will establish a better communication between the Home Office and our members and will continue to inform and update our members about our insurance and annuity programs.

The President stated that he will update the Executive Committee about the progress of this project.

UNDERWRITING/MEDICAL EXAMS

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the progress of Hooper Holmes/Portamedic, the outside company who gives our perspective insurance applicants their medical exams. As of this time, everything is in place and the program is running very well.

CONSOLIDATION

The President expressed his desire to examine the potential consolidation with other Slovak fraternal organizations. The financial situation of the F.C.S.U. is very solid and has progressed in the past 10+ years to the point where the F.C.S.U. has reached its largest surplus in its history, \$13,800,000 (thirteen million eight hundred thousand dollars) and is now in a strong position to aggressively seek out acquisition, merger or consolidation opportunities. The combination of Slovak Fraternal Societies should be in the long term best interest of all their members and the Slovak community in general. There is strength in numbers.

2010 CONVENTION

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee about the progress of Experiment, represented by Jim Harmon, an event planner, on finding a suitable convention site. Mr. Harmon is doing the basic research and gathering the information for the Executive Committee to review.

JEDNOTA ESTATES

The President led a discussion concerning the Jednota Estates in Middletown, PA. He stated that he appointed a six person Committee composed of members of the Board of the F.C.S.U., Jednota, Inc. and Jednota Properties, Inc. to study its future. He will update the Executive Committee when the Committee submits its report.

SALES AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed our Sales Production Report in different Regions and answered the Executive Committee's questions.

Conversion Program

The Vice President stated that he is still waiting for information from our actuaries about the Conversion Program. The Vice President stated that he would like to start this program this year.

AD & D (Accidental Death & Dismemberment)

The Vice President led a discussion regarding a AD & D (Accidental Death & Dismemberment) program. He stated that the FCSU will start offering this program on August 1, 2008. With this new program, if a member or a new member (ages 30-65) is issued a minimum \$10,000 Whole Life, a 20-Pay Life, or a *Single Premium Policy after August 1, 2008, the FCSU will include, as a Fraternal Benefit, a single \$25,000 Accidental Death Benefit at no additional charge for as long as a premium is being paid. (*Single Premium Policies are eligible for the first 5 years). Additional AD&D coverage up to \$500,000 for single or family coverage is available to our members at a special rate. More information and outlines of this new program will be published in Jednota and sent to the Branches.

Seminars

The Vice President informed the Executive Committee that he will conduct a sales semi-

nar for the Cleveland district on Sunday, August 17, 2008 and on October 12, 2008 for the Pittsburgh district. The Vice President stated that he will be in contact with the Regional Directors for organizing seminars in other districts.

The Vice President led a discussion concerning the recruitment of independent agents to sell our products. He stated that we have six new contracted independent agents with the possibility of signing new contracts with twelve additional independent agents.

MISCELLANEOUS

The President and the Executive Secretary informed the Executive Committee that they attended the FCSU Golf Tournament held on July 12 and 13, 2008 in Canton, Ohio.

The Executive Secretary reported to the Executive Committee on the repairs to the Editor's office in Middletown, PA. He stated further that he is in the process of obtaining a quote for a new furnace, a new air-conditioner and for insulation work on the office. The Executive Secretary also stated that all the planned work will be done before fall. The Editor and his assistant are now located in the "old residence building" (Krajsa home). This clears the Printery building for lease to potential tenants and in the interim will reduce heating and air conditioning costs.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of June for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

Executive Secretary Arendt reported the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of June:

Disbursements for the month of June 2008

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$148,170.09
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 29,137.17
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 1,049.00
Trust Fund	\$ 794.99

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report. The Executive Committee reviewed the rest of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered their questions.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to adjourn the meeting. The President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Fraternal Activities Committee

We are looking for new members, especially from

- Ford City
- Levittstown
- West Mifflin
- Akron

Bring your ideas to plan new activities

Slovak Civic Federation
1200 Hodgkiss St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Annual Meeting

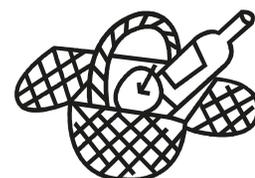
The Annual Meeting of the Fraternal Activities Committee will take place on Saturday, October 11, 2008, at the Slovak Civic Federation of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh, PA. The meeting will start at 1 PM.



We will review the 2008 tournaments and plan the 2009 tournaments. We will also choose the locations for the 2010 tournaments.



Saturday, October 11
1 PM



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 3 AND BRANCH 226 - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 and Branch 226 will hold their Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 12, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Joseph Matlon, 4016 Washington Street N.E., Columbia Heights, Minnesota.

Joseph Matlon, Publicity Committee

BRANCH 3P- HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 3P, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. in St. Joseph Church Cafeteria, 604 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend. Please spread the word to fellow members.

Mike Koval, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 96- CARROLLTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 96, will hold its next regular meeting on Sunday, September 7, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of President Stella Papson, 138 Sunset Road, Carrolltown, Pennsylvania.

Stella Papson, President

BRANCH 112- MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 112, will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 5, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. at Gil's Catering Hall, 505 West Mahanoy Street, Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania.

All members are invited to attend the District Mass, Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, October 5 beginning at 11:00 a.m. Please contact Karen Sterling at 570/544-6694 if you would like to attend.

Karen Sterling

BRANCH 153- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The financial secretary of the St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, is searching for addresses for the following members: John Baraniak, Charles Capiak, Charles Cernicka, Andrew Dibala, Jessica Garwell, Robert Hakala, Joseph Hovanec, Linda Johnson, Thomas Keach, Andrew Klotnia, Sophia Klotnia Edward Lorence, Jo Ann Porter, Andrew Ribak, Stephen Supa, Andrew Vontorcik, Ignac Wons, and Lorraine Zenk. If you have addresses for any of these members, please contact Dorothy Jurcenko, 7113 West Talcott Ave., Chicago, IL 60631, Phopne: 773/763-0810.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162- UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. in the third floor meeting room of the Meridian Point Apartments, Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Upcoming branch activities will be discussed and officers' reports will be presented. All members are invited to attend.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 260- CAMPBELL, OHIO

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 260, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at Msgr. Cyril

Adamko Hall at St. Elizabeth Church, Campbell, Ohio. There will be important issues on the agenda. Members are urged to attend.

Charles M. Terek, President

BRANCH 266- HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at 10:15 a.m. in St. Joseph Church Cafeteria, 604 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. All members are welcome.

Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 292- WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292, celebrated the feast of the martyrdom of their patron saint on Sunday, August 31, 2008, at 4:00 a.m. at 808 Graham Avenue, Windber, Pennsylvania. The semiannual meeting was held followed by a dinner. This was the second celebration of our patron saint. An earlier celebration was held on June 24.

Ed Surkosky, President

BRANCH 493- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Members of the Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, are encouraged to attend this year's Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Casimir, 2601 West Marquette Road, on the south side of Chicago. The topic will be "Pictures of the Old Country". Professional film maker Susan Marcinkus will show the film she produced about her grandmother's immigration to America from Slovakia. Her 45 minute film has been shown on PBS. Attendees will enjoy a delicious buffet lunch following the seminar. Admission is \$15.00 for pre-registration (by September 17), and \$20.00 at the door. For information, call John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810, or Gerry Hletko at 708/387-7812.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 510- KENOSHA, WISCONSIN

The St. Anthony Society, Branch 510, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at Casa Capri, Kenosha, Wisconsin. On the agenda will be officers' reports, a discussion of future events, and updates on insurance and annuity programs. The FCSU has good rates to invest into to protect your personal programs. The election of officers will take place after the business meeting.

There will also be an open discussion on the new regulations regarding the \$4.00 stipend per member. Since we lack sufficient funds this stipend really kept us going. During the last few years our share was cut off due to lack of new members or policies. This hurts our future. There will be a serious discussion on funds that belong to each branch that helps it to continue to exist.

Dinner will be available to those who attend this meeting. For reservations, call President Joseph Scuglik at 262/654-7364.

Joseph Scuglik, President

BRANCH 580- WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society,

Branch 580, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at 12:00 noon after Mass at the home of the Financial Secretary, Mary G. Perun, Outlook Drive, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Mary G. Perun, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 595- MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 595, will have its first meeting of the fall on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at Tatra Hall. Other meetings will be held on October 19, November 16 and December 21 (election of officers).

Several events are scheduled for this fall. There will be Polka Dancing on Sunday, September 7 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Music will be provided by the Rodney Beyers Polka Pals. There will be a Halloween dance on Saturday, October 18 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. with music provided by the Grabinski Orchestra. The Stan Morz Polka band will perform on Sunday, November 2, and The Old Time Polka Band will perform on Sunday, December 7. All dances are from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and are free with an offering at the door. Also, do not forget that there will be Breakfast served starting in September. It's time for all members to support Branch 595.

**Louis A. Kollar,
Financial Secretary/Treasurer
Robert Kosko, Presiden**

BRANCH 628- MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 628, will hold a meeting on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at 821 Laura Avenue, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. The agenda will include a recap of branch activities during the year and a continued discussion on the status of the merger with Branch 311.

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731-YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will hold a meeting on Sunday, September 7, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. in Saint Matthias Church Rectory, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. On the agenda will be a discussion of the regulations for the next convention and the upcoming Mass for our deceased members.

James Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743- STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, would like to invite all members and friends to the SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish Festival and FCSU Michigan District Picnic to be held Friday, September 5, Saturday, September 6, and Sunday, September 7 on the Parish grounds located at 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Festival hours are Friday (Alumni Night), 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.; Saturday, 2:00 to 11:00 p.m., and Sunday, 12:00 noon until 8:00 p.m.

Now that the church construction is over with, attendees will be under the Big Tent once again. There will be bands, Slovak dancers, ethnic foods, adult beverages and much more. There will be children's games, prizes, dunk tank, bake sale, crafts, silent auction, and more. Look for the Slovak specialties from the kitchen and grill!

For complete and current Festival information, please visit the web-site at www.saintcyriils.org.

Come and enjoy the festival and meet with your fellow Slovaks.

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President & Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746- LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The Branch 746 picnic planned for August 17 in Lincoln Memorial Park has been cancelled. Please join us at the next meeting on Sunday, September 7, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. in the upstairs meeting room of Msgr. Komar Hall at Holy Family Church, Linden, New Jersey.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 764-WARREN, OHIO

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 764, will hold a meeting on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. at Panera Bread, Warren, Ohio. This meeting will consist of planning our fall agenda. All members are welcome to attend.

Joanne Odom, Secretary

BRANCH 774- MERRILL-HEMLOCK, MICHIGAN

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 774, will hold a meeting on Saturday, September 20, 2008, at the home of Frank Radosa, 4084 Kane Road, Merrill, Michigan. For more information call 989/643-7592.

Irene Pacholka, Secretary-Treasurer

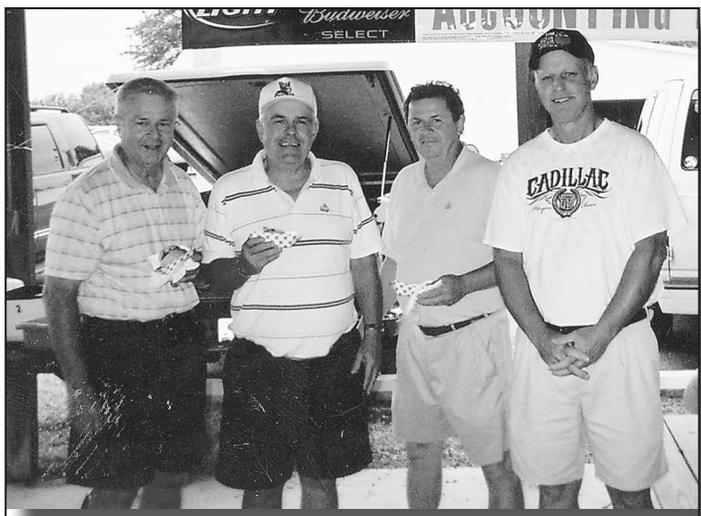


The Annual Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar

The Slovak Catholic Federation will sponsor its annual Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at the Sisters of St. Casimir Motherhouse, 2601 West Marquette Road, Chicago, Illinois.

Susan Marcinkus will present a 45 minute DVD on Slovakia. After the showing of "Pictures of the Old Country", a question and answer session will be held. The seminar will begin at 1:00 p.m. At 1:45 p.m. Geraldine Hletko will welcome the participants and introduce the speaker. A buffet luncheon will be served at 3:00 p.m.

The offering for this event is \$15.00 in advance and \$20.00 at the door. Prepaid registration can be arranged through John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810 no later than September 17, 2008. For further information, call Geraldine Hletko at 708/387-7812.



The Winners!
L-R: Capt. Joe Simkanin, Art Bernot, Franco Harris, and Jim Doland



Serving on the entrance gate committee were L-R Don Fallis, Jolie Ragan, Mike Kapitan, Chris Tokarsky and Michelle Cartwright.



The Buckey Boys. L-R: Albie Collier, Jon Gazdacko, Tommy Williams and Big Jim Gazdacko.



L-R Josie Siman, Jerry Siman, Lydia Scibravy and Mike Kapitan.



Brotherly Love. L-R: Paul Adzema, Chris Ross, Bill Dunn and Walt Tomko.



Top row L-R Helen Tonkovich, Marie Kapsa and Marnie Dobis. Bottom row L-R are Olga Dobis, Marge Kapsa and Mary Chodelka.

Akron Branch 553 Annual "Kielbasa Open"

On June 28, 2008, the St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 553, hosted another sold out Kielbasa Open Golf Outing!

All 96 golfers and over 25 hardworking volunteers enjoyed a beautiful day, feasting on homemade Slovak food and a host of quality refreshments.

Branch President Joe Petrasek praised the hard work of the entire golf committee and the team that made the outing so successful that day. President Joe also wanted to acknowledge the donations from our many generous sponsors that helped control our expenses, while making this event a super fund raiser for the Club. Thanks to all who played, donated and worked so hard to make this outing a premier event of the year.

Mark your calendars for the last Saturday in June 2009, so you don't miss out on the fun.

Gregory Petrasek

Slovak Catholic Family Day in Mississauga, Ontario

The Msgr. Michael Shuba District and the SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish sponsored their annual Slovak Catholic Family Day picnic on Sunday, July 27, 2008, at Creditvale Park in Mississauga, Ontario. Over 650 adults and children attended this year's picnic.

Events of the day began with a Slovak Mass at noon. Father Jozef Vano, our new pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius parish in Mississauga, was the principal celebrant of the Mass. Concelebrating were Father Grzegorz Nowiki, former pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius, and Msgr. Jozef Palusak, a visiting priest from Slovakia.

Following the liturgy, lunch was served. Over 230 lunches (schnitzels), 135 goulash dishes, and approximately 90 hot dogs, sausages and slanina sandwiches were sold. Over 200 ice cream cones were given away and five watermelons were available for all to enjoy. There were races for the children and games for adults, swimming and a bacon (slanina) and hot dog barbecue. There was also a coloring contest for the young children after the games were completed. Miro Letko provided the song and dance music in the afternoon and evening.

We were honored this year to have as guests Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary of the First Catholic Slovak Union with his wife Theresa, and Larry Glugosh, President of the Slovak Catholic Sokol with his wife Krista and their children. Larry and his wife Krista live in Mississauga. The Slovak picnic, like the Slovak church, brings together Slovaks from all fraternals without any bias.

Jerry Siman



Luke Hingson, President of Brother's brother Foundation with Honorary Consul Joseph Senko.

Medical Equipment Shipped to Slovak Nursing Homes

Joe Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania, recently shipped over \$40,000 of new and used medical equipment to three nursing homes in Slovakia. Prior to the shipment, Joe made two trips to Slovakia to meet with the Sisters from the Daughters of St. Francis of Assisi who operate nursing homes in Svidnik, Bardejov and Bratislava. Based on these meetings, Joe made arrangements for the shipment of a 40 foot container filled with beds, chairs, surgical instruments, gloves, masks, pads, braces, glasses and many other items. The shipment contained 18,400 pairs of exam gloves. These supplies were donated by Brother's Brother Foundation in Pittsburgh. The shipping costs were paid by U.S. Steel-Kosice. The U.S. Embassy in Bratislava helped coordinate the paper work with the Slovak government.



SLOVAK FESTIVAL

18TH ANNUAL SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS PARISH SLOVAK FESTIVAL



FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Sept. 5, 2008	Sept. 6, 2008	Sept. 7, 2008
7:00 - 11:00 p.m.	2:00 - 11:30 p.m.	12:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Family Night		(Parish Raffle @ 5.30)
St. Cyril Alumni Reunion		

Ethnic Foods - Bake Sale - Parish Raffle
Dunk Tank - Inflatables - Kids' Games - 50/50
Doll & Toy Raffle - Craft Corner - Silent Auction
Beer - Wine - Pop - Music & More

Entertainment Program

- Friday: * St. Cyril Alumni Reunion
* Family Night "Karaoke"
- Saturday: * Šarišan Slovak Folk Ensemble and Junior Šarišan
* Východna Slovak Dancers from Toronto
* Veselica Slovak Folk Band from Chicago
* The Superstars of Rock
- Sunday: * Šarišan Slovak Folk Ensemble and Junior Šarišan
* Východna Slovak Dancers from Toronto
* Veselica Slovak Folk Band from Chicago
* Tri-City Plus Band
- Public Dancing on Saturday and Sunday ---
(Program subject to change)

FOODS

- Holubky (Stuffed cabbage)
- Halušky (Cabbage & dumplings)
- Pirohy (Pierogi)
- Faširky (Slovak burgers)
- Klobása s kapustou (Kielbasa with sauerkraut)
- Parky (Hot Dogs)
- Hranolky (French Fries)
- Cyril Burgers
- Palacinky (Crepes)
- Langoš (Funnel cakes)
- Zmrzlina (Ice Cream)
- Predaj Koláčov (Bake Sale)

BEVERAGES

- Pivo (Beer) * Vino (Wine)
- Malinovky (Pop)
- Káva (Coffee) & More

All Proceeds to Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church Building Fund

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church
41233 Ryan Rd. * Sterling Heights, MI * 48314
www.saintcyrils.org 586-726-6911



St. John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5P in Exeter, Pennsylvania, presented checks to branch applicants of the FCSU Scholarship program. Pictured above is Jenna Ann Gatchie and her parents Joseph and Monica Gatchie. Jenna is an honors graduate of South Allegheny High School, Liberty, PA. She is a member of the National Honor Society. Jenna's insurance policy was purchased by her late uncle, Msgr. Joseph J. Super, pastor of the former St. John the Baptist Church, Pittston. Branch officers are Leonard Zavada, Marion Rubino and Martha Zavada.



Representatives from Pittsburgh's Sister City of Presov were special guests at this year's festival.



Stopping at the FCSU booth are L-R Slovak Honorary Consul Joseph T. Senko, Albina Senko and international travel consultant Paul J. Hudak.

FCSU Makes a Presence at Annual Slovak Day at Kennywood

In 2007, the Executive Committee of the First Catholic Slovak Union made a decision to increase the visibility of the organization by having its officers attend the various Slovak festivals and other events around the country.

In keeping with this program, the FCSU set up a booth at the annual Slovak Day held in Kennywood Park near Pittsburgh on Thursday, July 17, 2008. Copies of the JEDNOTA newspapers and information on FCSU products were distributed.

This annual event draws large crowds each year from Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and West Virginia. In addition to homemade Slovak food and pastries, there were games for children and dancing by the "PAS" Junior Dance Group as well as the Junior Pittsburgh Slovaks. A program was held at which time guests were introduced. At 4:00 p.m. Mass was celebrated on the stage. The Rev. Michal E. Kozol, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Uniontown, Pennsylvania, was the principal celebrant. Concelebrants were clergy from the Pittsburgh, Greensburg and Altoona-Johnstown Dioceses.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. National Vice President

The 85th Slovak American Day at Kennywood Park in Pittsburgh

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

In keeping with a long tradition, the Western Pennsylvanian Slovak Day Cultural Association hosted the 85th Annual Slovak Day at Kennywood Park on July 17, 2008. Unlike last year's rainy weather, this time the weather cooperated; it was hot and humid, and all could enjoy the rides as well as the marvelous Slovak events.

The Pittsburgh event at Kennywood has continued since the 1920s, when many Slovak-Americans decided they wished to celebrate their heritage during the summer months. From the time it first began, Slovak-American newspapers have hailed the occasion as evidence that many Slovak immigrants had successfully adjusted to American life, while maintaining many of their cultural traditions.

Since Kennywood is an amusement park full of shaded picnic grounds, it has afforded both young and old alike an opportunity to enjoy a fun-packed day.

After trying some early rides at the park, most everyone began the Slovak part of the day by enjoying a bountiful lunch at the *Slovenská kuchyňa* (Slovak Kitchen). The meal included a bountiful helping of *chalupky* (stuffed cabbage), *pirohy*, *halušky* (cabbage and noodles), *klobasa*, and *čeregy* (pastry). A complete meal cost only six dollars and was a delicious bargain compared to typical amusement park prices.

Among those helping volunteer to serve in the Slovak kitchen were David Blazek, the president of the locally based National Slovak Society.

A splendid display of Slovak *kroj* (costume) was also featured in one of the pavilions. PÁS, the Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble, featured a display of children's work on a variety of Slovak cultural topics: immigration, religion and rituals, holidays, needlecrafts, foods, entertainments, and general information about Slovakia.

Maggie Fero and Michael Pacacha displayed some of the results of their ongoing research of documenting information about the history of Slovak Day in Pittsburgh. When established, Slovak fraternal and local clergy used the event to unite Slovak-Americans in the Pittsburgh area, and photos showed the large crowds, with many dressed in native *kroj*. Originally, Kennywood Park only allowed Slovaks into the park on Slovak Day, and people with picnic baskets flocked to the park from neighboring mill and coal mining towns in southwestern Pa.

Several fraternal also had displays, including our First Catholic Slovak Union. Andy and Marian Harčar manned the *Jednota* table and invited attendees to learn more about the FCSU and join our fraternal.

Some of the first afternoon events featured the lively dancing and splendid singing of children and youth from the Junior Pittsburgh Slovaks and the PAS Junior Dance Group.

Slovak Mass

Another focal point of Slovak Day is the opening ceremony and the celebration of Holy Mass. The Rev. Joseph Grosko of Holy Trinity Church, who is also the President of the Western Pa. Slovak Day Committee, delivered the invocation. The Honorable Cynthia Maleski Groch, the regional vice president of the Slovak League of America, served as Toastmaster of the ceremonies.

After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Slovak and American national anthems, Ms. Groch introduced special guests, which included several national fraternal leaders.

Holy Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Micah E. Kozoil, the pastor of St. Mary (Nativity) Church in Uniontown, Pa. Concelebrating were priests from the Pittsburgh area and several other diocese.

Most of the Mass was recited in English, but as is typical, the singing was all in Slovak, accompanied by organist Fr. Greg Madeya and with singing led by Robert Ponchak.

SHALH'S GENEROUS GIFT TO PÁS

After Mass, a special ceremony occurred, thanks to the cooperation of Slovak Day Committee Chairman, Cecilia Sarocky. The Slovak Heritage Society of the Laurel Highlands (SHSLH), based in Johnstown, Pa., donated a check for \$500.00 to PÁS. SHSLH President Susan Kalčík and Treasurer Joe Paluš presented the check to Milenka Kopanic Feighner (a SHALH member who now belongs to PÁS) and PÁS directors John and Angela Lipchak. The Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble, is accepting donations to help fund its 2009 summer trip to the Detva Slovak Folk Festival in Slovakia.

After the ceremony, PÁS put on a lively performance of songs and dances and dressed in the costume (*kroj*) of Myjava in Western Slovakia.

Another crowd pleaser followed, the Pittsburgh Slovaks, directed by Sue and Rudy Ondrejco, who also host the Sunday Slovak Radio Program. Dressed in a myriad of very colorful and beautiful *kroj*, the Pittsburgh Slovaks put on an impressive display of talent and dancing skill.

Indeed, the Pittsburgh area is fortunate to have both of these fine Slovak folk groups who work so hard to maintain a vibrant Slovak culture in the Pittsburgh area.

Many people deserve recognition for the success of Slovak Day, including General Chairman, Cecilia Sarocky, and to Father Grosko, and all those who cooked, set up exhibits, and the many unnamed generous people who gave their time in preparing for the occasion. Likewise, the



Slovak Mass



Milenka Kopanic Feighner dancing with PAS, The Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble

sponsors of the event deserve credit, including the National Slovak Society, the First Catholic Slovak Union, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, the Greek Catholic Union, the Slovak Savings Bank and the Western PA Slovak Day Committee. Their financial and moral support, and their prayers, helped make this event something to look forward to each and every year.

Donations Welcome

Any one interested in supporting PÁS may send a check to help defray the expenses. PÁS is accepting donations to help fund its 2009 summer trip to the Detva Slovak Folk Festival in Slovakia. PÁS welcomes donations from fraternal, Slovak organizations and individuals who wish to help PAS in its quest to display its talents in Slovakia next year.

Please send your donations to:

PÁS FOLK ENSEMBLE
1254 Old Concord Road

Monroeville, PA 15146 Tel. (412) 373-3873 e-mail:

This is a cause well worth our support, and a future article in this column will explain more about the Detva Folk Festival and PÁS.



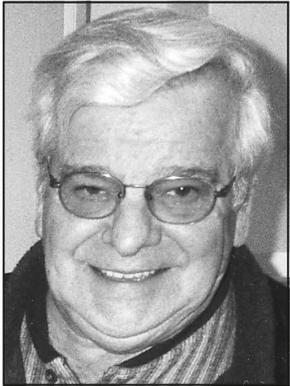
WPSCA Hosts Testimonial Dinner

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association (WPSCA) will hold its fourth biennial Testimonial Awards Dinner on Sunday, September 14, 2008, at the Greentree Radisson Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Igor Pokojny, the Slovak Consul General from New York, will bring greetings from the Slovak government. Charles Dougherty, President of Duquesne University, will be the keynote speaker. Musical entertainment will be provided by Andrei Pivnicka and Friends. To purchase tickets (\$55 per person), an ad in the program book or a donation to the silent auction, contact Joe Senko at 412/531-2990 or 412/343-5031.

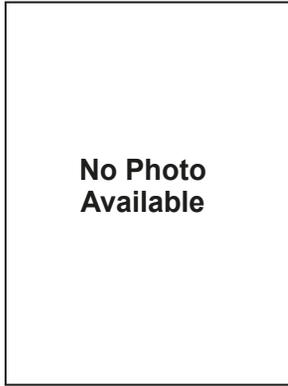
WPSCA will be recognizing six honorees who by their distinguished leadership and service have enriched the Slovak culture and heritage. The awardees for this year are: Frederick N. Frank, Director-Slovak American Enterprise Fund; Gregory C. Fajt, Governor Rendell's Chief of Staff; Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh; David G. Blazek, National President of the National Slovak Society; and Rudy and Sus Ondrejco, leaders of the Pittsburgh Slovaks and hosts of Western PA Slovak Radio Hour.

The Best of the Best!

Top Guns Thru From January 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008



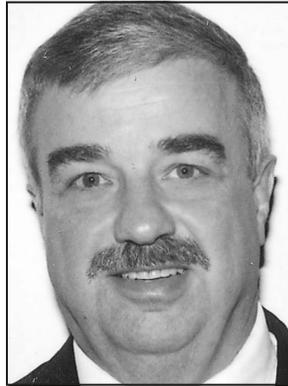
George A. Sprock
First Place



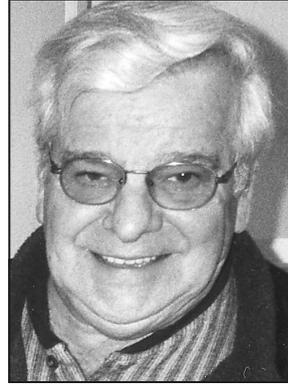
Michael J. Slovenkai
Second Place



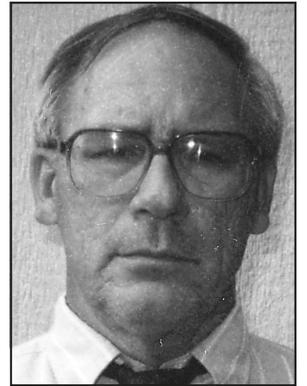
Michael E. Lako
Third Place



Kenneth A. Arendt
First Place



George A. Sprock
Second Place



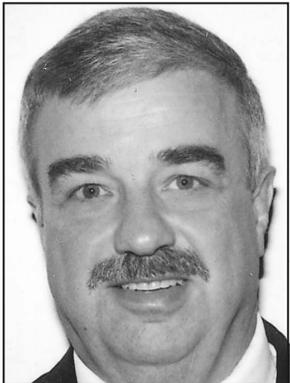
Michael E. Lako
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

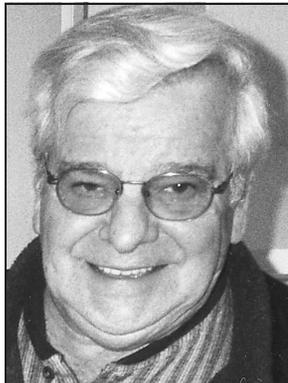
	Branch	Insurance Amount
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$313,614
Michael J. Slovenkai, Scranton, Pennsylvania	382	\$150,000
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	\$130,000
Frances Tarquinio, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania	320	\$120,000
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	\$110,489
Audrey J. Balazik, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	367	\$106,000
Sabina Sabados, Linden, New Jersey	746	\$100,000
Joseph F. Minarovich, Bridgewater, New Jersey	290	\$85,000
Florence K. Matta, White Oak, Pennsylvania	38	\$61,413
Joseph J. Yuros, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	35	\$60,000

TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

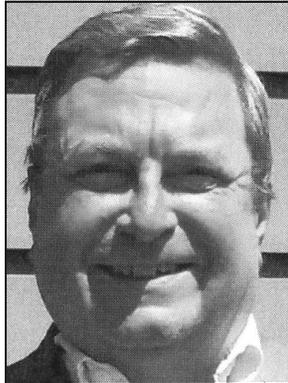
	Branch	Total Points
Kenneth A. Arendt, Vermilion, Ohio	228	344
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	239
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	192
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	149
Robert Joseph Kopco, Independence, Ohio	24	138
Al Tipul, Columbia Station, Ohio	319	108
Monica B. Tomko, Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania	857	101
Thomas M. Hricik, Greensburg, Pennsylvania	181	100
Michaelene T. Smolleck, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	312	91
Loretta A. Dashner, Allentown, Pennsylvania	567	88



Kenneth A. Arendt
First Place



George A. Sprock
Second Place



Robert Joseph Kopco
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITIES/IRA SOLD

	Branch	Annuities
Kenneth A. Arendt, Vermilion, Ohio	228	\$344,461.35
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$146,748.35
Robert Joseph Kopco, Independence, Ohio	24	\$139,410.97
Al Tipul, Columbia Station, Ohio	319	\$109,905.05
Thomas M. Hricik, Greensburg, Pennsylvania	181	\$100,356.34
Albert R. Valo, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania	587	\$66,000.00
Roger T. Soltis, Massilon, Ohio	410	\$59,150.39
Thomas William Hudak, Whitehall, Pennsylvania	796	\$52,139.92
Michael Leo Koval, Hazleton, Pennsylvania	3P	\$39,556.09
Rosemary Deliman, Philipsburg, Pennsylvania	417	\$35,000.00



Allentown Parish Plans Events

The St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church is sponsoring a Buffet Breakfast on Sunday, September 7, 2008, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the church social hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Donations is \$6.00

St. John the Baptist Church is also sponsoring a "Meat Bingo" on Sunday, September 21 in the church social hall. Doors open at 12:00 noon; bingo starts at 1:00 p.m. Donations is \$5.00 plus specials. Refreshments will be available.

For information on the above events call Helen Fiala at 610/434-8614.

ATTENTION

THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC 2008 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2008 Scholarship Program.

**THE COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD UP TO
TEN ONE-TIME \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS**

TO THE CANDIDATES WHO BEST SATISFY THE AWARD CRITERIA.

- Any individual of Slovak descent and Catholic faith who will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible for a Scholarship
- Applicants will be required to describe accomplishments they believe would qualify them for recognition in general, and specifically, accomplishments in the areas of:
 - Scholarship
 - Leadership
 - Service to school, church and community
- Applicants will also be required to provide:
 - An official copy of applicant's high school transcript, which indicates applicant's high school grades and all standardized test scores achieved, including all ACT and SAT scores.
 - One (1) letter of recommendation authored by a teacher, counselor, administrator or an employment supervisor familiar with the applicant
 - Examples of applicant's community involvement
 - A list and description of leadership positions held by applicant.
 - A list of awards received by applicant for scholastic excellence, community involvement, or leadership ability
 - A description of the applicant's academic or career objectives
 - A statement demonstrating an applicant's need for education financing

For applications, please contact:

First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131

Phone 1-800-533-6682 - Fax 216-642-4310

E-mail: fcsu@aol.com - Website: www.fcsu.com

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 3, 2008

*Family members of members of the Scholarship Committee are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.

Annual Slovak-American Day in Franklin, Wisconsin

The Federated Slovak Societies of Wisconsin held their 78th annual picnic on Sunday, July 13, 2008, at Croatian Park in Franklin, Wisconsin. The park opened at 11:00 a.m., with hot food, baked goods, and refreshments available for purchase.

Mass was offered in Slovak at noon by Father Louis Luljak. At 2:00 p.m. the day's entertainment commenced as the Slovak Catholic Sokol Team performed. The Tatra Slovak Dance Troup from Milwaukee followed the Sokols, with the JFL Slovak-American Band from Chicago providing music for the rest of the afternoon.

Region VII Director Rudy Glogovsky arranged for the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II to sponsor a booth at the festival. The Jednota booth featured homemade Slovak rozek (kolach) for sale. Jednota volunteers also distributed complimentary copies of the Jednota newspaper to attendees, and displayed information on FCSU Life insurance and annuity products.

Robert Tapak Magruder

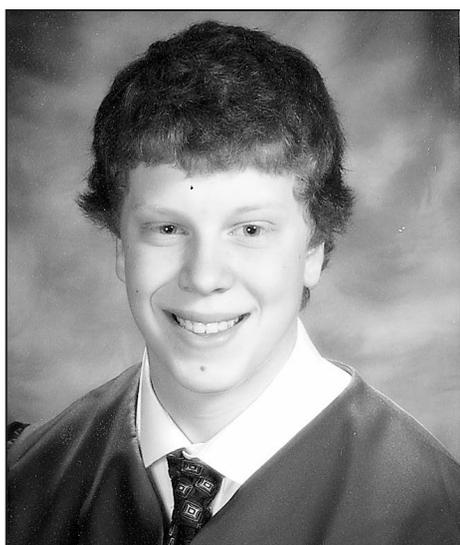


Raritan Branch 290 Presents Annual Awards

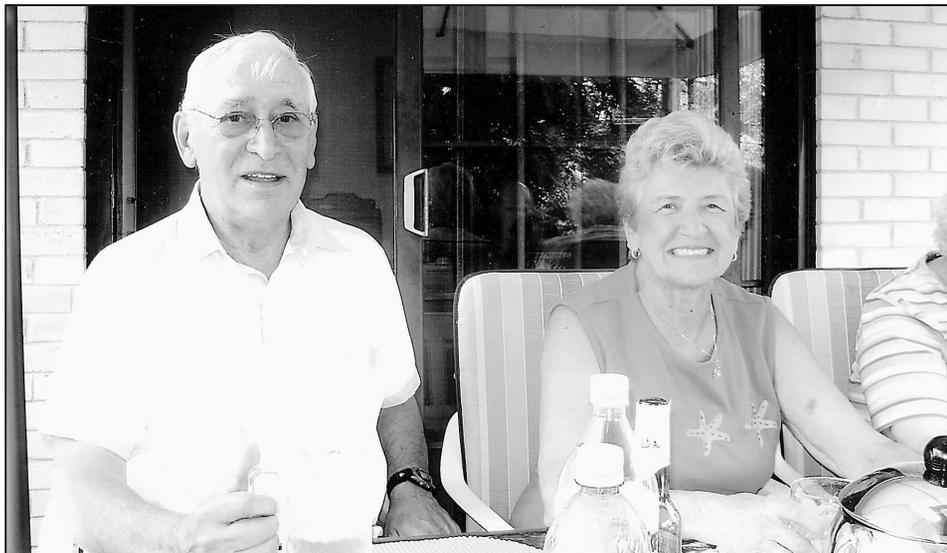
The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 290 in Raritan, New Jersey, presented the society's annual student awards to Greg Rommel and Allie Roetke. These awards are given to deserving students based on their scholastic achievements and teachers' recommendations. The award consists of a paid up J.E.P. Policy for \$10,000 plus a \$50 monetary gift. Both of this year's recipients are graduates of Immaculate Conception School in Somerville, New Jersey.

The officers and members of Branch 290 congratulate this year's recipients and wish them continued success in their studies.

Joseph Minarovich



Greg Rommel



Alex and Alice Dobrik

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Dobrik Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage

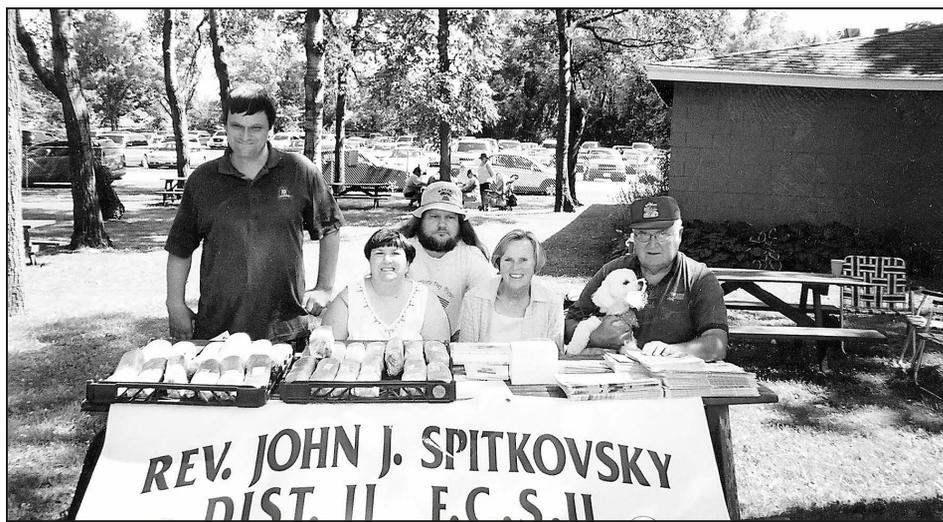
Alex and Alice Dobrik of St. Laurent, Quebec, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 7, 2008.

Alex Dobrik was born in Montreal, a son of the late Pavel and Margita Dobrik. Alice Carpowicz was also born in Montreal and is of Polish descent. The couple is blessed with two sons, Steven and Robert, and five grandchildren.

Alex Dobrik retired from General Motors after 38 years of service. Alice retired after 20 years with Perkins Co.

Both Alex and Alice are members of Branch 784 in Montreal. Alice serves as the president of Branch 784 and also as treasurer of Our Rosary Society of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church.

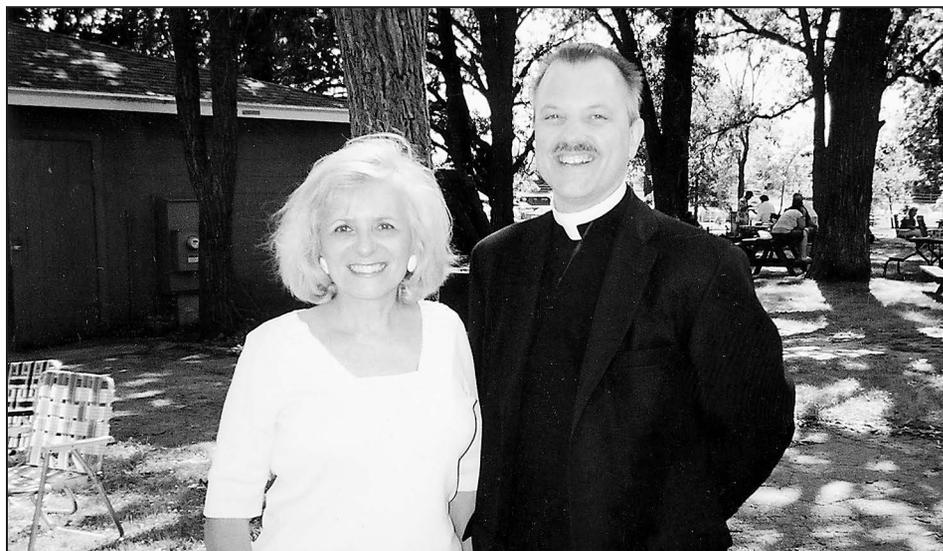
Alex's sister Anne, her husband John and their family wish Alex and Alice all the best and God's blessings. The members and friends of Branch 784 also extend their best wishes to the anniversary couple.



Jednota volunteers Peter Turner, Val Vesely, Robert Tapak Maguder, Anita Glogovsky, and Rudy Glogovsky with Snowball.



Msgr. Peter Bolerasky, retired pastor of St. Stephen the King Slovak Catholic Parish, Streator, IL, and Father Jeffrey Small.



Idka Rajec and Father Jeffrey Small.



Laci Bolchazy and Betty Brendel staffed the Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers booth, which featured Slovak books for sale.

United Branch 181 Family Picnic

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 181, held its annual Family Picnic on Saturday, June 21, 2008 from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Mammoth Park, Mammoth, Pennsylvania. As in past years, there was an abundance of good food, prizes and games. Each member was asked to bring a covered dish with extra portions to share with the other guests. The meat and drinks were provided by Branch 181. There were some very nice door prizes including a television. All those who attended enjoyed the fun, fellowship and fraternalism.



Barb Mizikar and Nancy Mizikar helped prepare the food.



Dick Mizikar



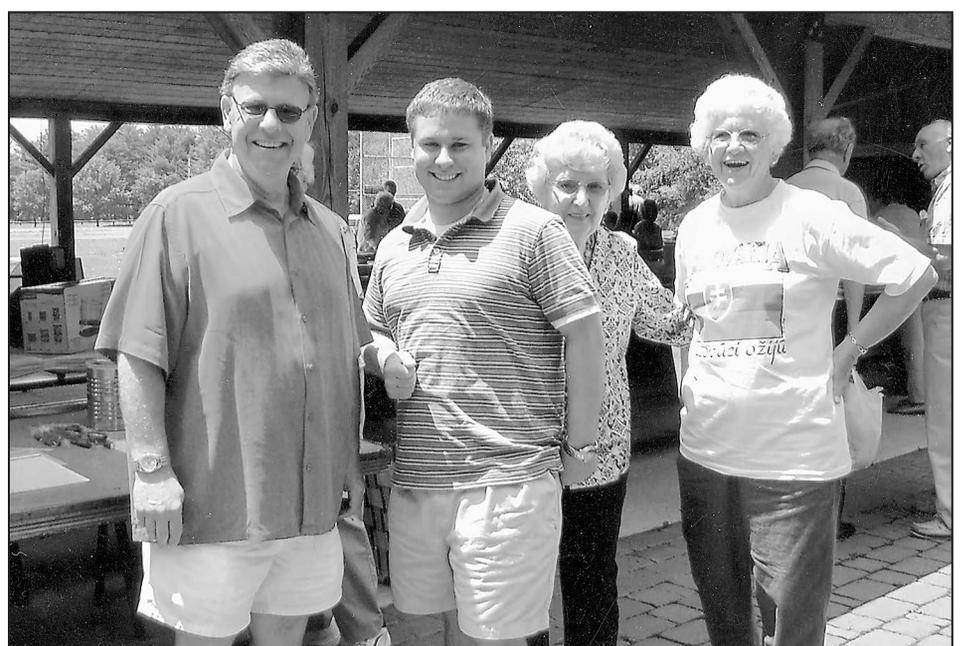
2 Veterans honored at the picnic L-R: Bill Smail, John Lopatosky, , Frank Mizikar, Thomas Hricik, and Jim Takatich.



Branch 181 President Clarence Pfeifer



FCSU National President Emeritus Thomas Hricik and Branch 181 President Clarence Pfeifer.

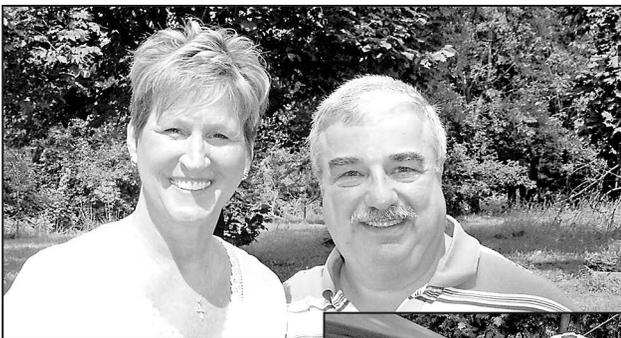


L-R: Dr. Steven Whisdosh, Steven Whisdosh Jr., Geraldine Hricik, and Agnes Farkash

Zahraničných Slovákov učili ľudové tance

Banská Bystrica/Kľačno (TASR) - Premiérový ročník Letného kurzu ľudového tanca pre deti slovenskej minority v zahraničí sa uskutočnil na záver mesiaca júl v Kľačne v okrese Prievidza. Zorganizovalo ho Metodické centrum (MC) Univerzity Mateja Bela (UMB) pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí a zahraničných študentov v Banskej Bystrici. Nadviazalo ním na organizovanie úspešných Letných kurzov slovenského jazyka pre krajanov žijúcich v zahraničí.

„Prvý ročník Letného kurzu ľudového tanca pod názvom Tancuj, tancuj, vykročaj ... sa začal 20. júla v kľačianskej Škole v prírode. Na Slovensko prišlo 76 detí od päť do 21 rokov z Rakúska, Ukrajiny a Česka. Okrem nich aj štyria rodičia a šesť pedagógov. Je to novinka v starostlivosti Slovenska o deti slovenskej minority v zahraničí a to prostredníctvom detských folklórnych súborov. Pri jeho organizovaní vychádzala Sekcia medzinárodnej spolupráce Ministerstva školstva SR z požiadaviek a potrieb Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí,“ uviedla riaditeľka MC UMB Anita Murgašová. Na Slovensko prišli z folklórny súbor Limbora z českej Prahy, z Rakúska folklórny súbor pri spolku Sova a z Ukrajiny folklórny súbor Turianska dolina. Pôvodná ponuka bola pre 21 detí a dvoch pedagógov z Rakúska, pretože neďaleko Viedne v dedinke Mödling sa znovu revitalizuje základná škola s vyučovacím jazykom slovenským, tá sa však rozšírila aj na Česko a na Ukrajinu. Kurz bol určený najmä pre deti 1. a 2. stupňa základných škôl s vyučovacím jazykom slovenským v zahraničí a pre ich učiteľov. Mali zvládnuť účinkovanie vo folklórnom súbore v domovskej krajine a komunikovať v slovenskom jazyku pri tvorbe choreografie. „Pri výučbe v oblasti tanečnej sme postupovali od základných tanečných a pohybových prvkov k zložitejším. Lektori zároveň jeho účastníkom vysvetľovali princípy slovenského ľudového tanca, ktorý je takmer výhradne založený na variáciách a spájaní rôznych tanečných prvkov a variácií. Výberom vhodných slovenských ľudových piesní sa postupne naučili aj základy slovenského jazyka. Prostredníctvom spevov sa účastníci kurzu zoznámili so slovenským jazykom a v základných črtách spoznali ľudové zvykoslovie viažuce sa k rodinným aj výročným príležitostiam, konštatovala Murgašová.



Hlavný tajomník Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Kenneth Arendt spolu s manželkou Terezou.

Počas príprav veľkého kotla gulášu zľava: Helen Von Friedle, Miloš Mitro, Jana Puškár, Annie Mitro.



Slovenský katolícky Deň rodiny v Mississauga, Ontario

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

sauga, Ontario, otec Jozef Vaňo. Koncelebrantmi boli otec Grzegorz Nowicki, bývalý výpomocný farár farnosti sv. Cyrila a Metoda; Mgr. Palušák farár-dekan slovenskej obce Polomka v tom čase na návšteve Kanady. Po svätej omši sa začal podávať obed pre približne asi 650 návštevníkov. Bolo pripravených niekoľko slovenských špecialít. Predalo sa 230 vyprážených rezňov, 135 porcií gulášu, asi 90 párkov, klobás, slaniny a sendvičov. Vydalo sa viac než 200 porcií zmrzliny a 5 celých červených dyní bolo nakrájaných na občerstvenie pre návštevníkov pikniku po celý deň.

Po chutnom obede dospeli aj deti mali možnosť kúpania, zúčastnenia sa rôznych hier, pečenia slaninky a párok a na záver na tých najmenších sa nezabudlo ani súťažou vo farbení malovánok. V popoludňajších hodinách až do večera hral do tanca a na počúvanie Miro Letko.

Našou čťou bolo privítať medzi nami hostí: hlavného tajomníka Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty Kenneth Arendta spolu s manželkou Terezou; hlavného predsedu Slovenského Katolíckeho Sokola, Larry Glugosha s manželkou Kristou a deťmi. Larry spolu s manželkou Kristou žijú v Mississaugae.

Slovenský Deň rodiny tak ako slovenský kostol priláka spoločne Slovákov a fraternalistov z blízkeho i vzdialeného okolia aby sa pookriali a strávili príjemné chvíle v spoločnosti krajanov.

Jerry Siman

Prípravy na 31. Slovenský festival v New Jersey 28. septembra

Sv. omšu odslúži spišský biskup František Tondra

Výbor Festivalu slovenského dedičstva v New Jersey pokračuje v prípravách 31. výročného festivalu. V roku 2007 sa na tomto podujatí zúčastnilo 10 tisíc ľudí a výbor očakáva približne taký istý počet aj tohto roku.

Festival bude 28. septembra v PNC Arts Center v Holmdel, N.J. (Exit 116 z Garden State Parkway). Začne sa o 10. hodine ráno. O 11. hod. bude katolícka sv. omša, ktorú bude celebrotovať biskup Spišskej diecézy František Tondra (ThDr.), ktorý je t.č. predsedom Biskupskej konferencie Slovenska. Asistovať mu budú viacerí slovenskí kňazi z okolia.

Kultúrno-zábavný program sa začne na javisku o 2. hod. popoludní. Po tradičnej prehliadke krojov vystúpi folklórna skupina PAS z Pittsburghu a detská skupina Limbory z New Yorku. Účastníkov bude zabávať aj duo spevákov a zabávačov Jozef a Dodo Ivaška zo Slovenska, ktorí už na festivale úspešne vystupovali v minulých rokoch. Na festivale budú prítomní aj významní hostia zo Slovenska.

Od 3. hodiny bude pod veľkým stanom hrať do tanca kapela Kontakty. Na festivale bude približne 40 stánkov s výstavkami a s rozličnými zábavnými, kultúrnymi a pamiatkovými predmetmi a viac ako 10 potravinových stánkov s pestrým výberom slovenských jedál. Vstup na festival je voľný.

Záujemcovia o výstavné alebo predajné nepotravinové stánky sa ešte môžu prihlásiť u Z. Krčmarovej na č. (973) 357-1209. Rezervácie potravinových stánkov si možno zaistiť u Henriety Daitovej (201) 641-8922.

Výbor Festivalu



Let do vesmíru si predplatili už traja ľudia, jeden z nich je Slovák

Praha (TASR) - Cestu do vesmíru si predplatili už prví traja ľudia v Česku, ktorí za ňu zaplatili po tri milióny Kč. Najmenej jeden z nich je Slovák, pričom všetci traja sú podnikatelia. Vo vydaní zo dňa 30. júla o tom informoval denník Mladá fronta DNES (MfD). Záujemcovia o vesmírne dobrodružstvo sa tak zaradili na zoznam niekoľkých stoviek uchádzačov o netradičný zážitok, ktorý začne na budúci rok ponúkať americká spoločnosť Virgin Galactic. Tá nedávno oficiálne predstavila špeciálnu kozmickú loď, ktorej vývoj trval niekoľko rokov. „Rok sa bude testovať a o ďalšie tri mesiace poletí prvý záujemca z Česka,“ citovala MfD českého predajcu komerčných letov do kozmu, Romana Jonáša z Typ Agency. Mená ľudí, ktorí za svoj sen už zaplatili, firma tají. Isté však je, že minimálne jeden z nich je Slovák.

S myšlienkou na let do kozmu sa podľa Jonáša pohráva ďalších 20 Čechov. Ich záujem je obrovský, najviac záujemcov - osem - eviduje Japonsko, ktoré má však 12-krát viac obyvateľov ako Česko. Raketu SpaceShip-2 vynesie lietadlo do vyšších vrstiev atmosféry, odkiaľ odštartuje. Amatérskych kozmonautov vynesie 100 kilometrov nad Zem, kde pobudnú päť minút v bezváhovitom stave. Celý let potrvá zhruba tri hodiny. Virgin plánuje spočiatku jeden let týždenne, neskôr dva denne. Komerčným letom do vesmíru sú naklonení aj vedci. „Ide o novú éru výskumu vesmíru, nech už sa s komerciou spája akokoľvek. Aj veda si na seba musí zarobiť,“ skonštatoval pre MfD šéf Českej kozmickej agentúry Ján Kollář.



Česko a Slovensko priťahujú investorov z Východu

Praha (TASR) - Česká republika je spoločne so Slovenskom najčastejším cieľom východoeurópskych investorov. Naopak, investori zo západnej Európy preferujú Poľsko. Vyplýva to z najnovšieho prieskumu poradenskej skupiny Deloitte, o ktorom nedávno informoval český denník Hospodářské noviny. Podľa výsledkov prieskumu podnikateľov od ďalšieho plánovania fúzií a akvizícií neodrádza ani kríza na svetových finančných trhoch. Okrem toho sa stredoeurópske spoločnosti v posledných rokoch zmenili z potenciálneho cieľa fúzie na investorov, ktorí sami hľadajú ďalšie obchodné a investičné príležitosti. Ich aktivita sa podľa Deloitte nebude ani v nasledujúcom období znižovať. Z pohľadu investorov je Európa považovaná za najvhodnejší región, pozornosť však priťahujú aj rozvíjajúce sa ázijské trhy. Regióny mimo Európy sú zaujímavejšie pre západoeurópskych ako východoeurópskych investorov. Značná časť európskych investícií smeruje do spotrebiteľského sektora a výrobnjej sféry. V strednej Európe je záujem najmä o energetiku a prírodné zdroje. Česká spoločnosť ČEZ prvá v regióne zvolila ako stratégiu expanziu pomocou fúzií a akvizícií. V súčasnosti tak združuje 90 spoločností v Česku, Bulharsku, Rumunsku a Poľsku.

Msgr. Michal Shuba – kanadský slovenský Moyses

Koncom septembra t.r. pripadá nám pripomenúť si stopäť rokov od narodenia významného, všeobecne rešpektovaného v cirkevných a laických kruhoch v Kanade a susedných Spojených štátov slovenského kňaza – Msgr. Michala Shubu, ktorý do tvorivej histórie kanadských Slovákov natrvalo sa zapísal hrubými literami, nielen ako zakladateľ slovenskej osady svätých Cyrila a Metoda v Toronte, ale aj ako hlavný duchovný pre Kanadu Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. V tejto funkcii mal možnosť navštíviť a povzbudiť v práci a činnosti v znamení hesla Za Boha a národ a zachovania Cyrilo-metodejského dedičstva početné slovenské strediská v Kanade. Koncom päťdesiatich rokov spolky Katolíckej Jednoty v torontskom regióne sa zlúčili a utvorili Okres Msgr. Shubu.

Rodom Spišiak z obce Smižany, kde sa narodil pred stopäť rokmi, konkrétne 21. septembra 1903. V šiestom roku svojho mladého života odišiel s matkou k otcovi do amerického železiarskeho mesta Youngstown, Ohio. Po skončení základnej školy a teologických štúdií, v roku 1932 bol vysvätený za kňaza. Dva roky po kňazskej ordinácii, dobrovoľne sa prihlásil k pastoračii medzi Slovákami v Toronte, kde účelne a blahodárne pôsobil do roku 1970, kedy zo zdravotných dôvodov odišiel na zalúžený odpočinok. Jeho pôvodný dvojročný pastoračný termín medzi Slovákami v Toronte pretrval celý život, poznačený dobrými aj menej dobrými spomienkami, ťažkosťami a

nedostatkami, ktoré prišli do cesty rodiacej sa osady.

Podľa jeho priznania nie všetci nádejní farníci chceli mať svoju vlastnú cirkevnú osadu z obáv, že ju neudržia pre panujúcu hospodársku depresiu a po nej politicky intenzívne vojnové a povojnové roky, ktoré neprispeli ku konsolidácii pomerov slovenského etnika v Kanade. Systematické útoky na mladého kňaza a všetko čo bolo katolícke zo strany komunistického režimu, situáciu nezlepšili. Jeho blízki mu radili na nevyprovokované útoky reagovať v našich novinách. Odoprel. Veril, že útoky sú dočasné a skôr-neskôr prestanú. Zdieľal názor, že netreba prilievať olej na oheň. Nič sa tým nedocieli.

I keď slovenská osada sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Toronte nie je prvá v Kanade, radí sa medzi najaktívnejšie, najmä od postavenia vlastného kostola a neskorej pristavby priestrannej haly pre spoločenské a rodinné podujatia so slovenskou doplnovacou školou a basebalovým klubom pre dorastajúcu mládež, ktorého páter Shuba bol manažérom. Počas stavby kostola na Robinson ulici v mestskom distrikte Bellwoods, vtedajšom centre katolíckej emigrácie do Toronta, pomáhal ako stavebný robotník. Kto ho nepoznal, nepovedal by, že je to kňaz. Azda v Toronte a jeho blízkom okolí, nenájdú sa mladí z prvej slovenskej generácie, ktorých by nebol pokrstil, zosobášil a keď čas prišiel ich otcov a matky odprevadil do sveta

večnosti.

Msgr. Shuba do veľkej miery sa zaslúžil o to, že v osade prevládali nielen náboženský, ale aj národný duch. Bol kňazom rýdneho charakteru, hlbokej viery a slovenského presvedčenia. Ako rodený Slováčik na svoje rodné korene nikdy nezabudol. Ako človek, člen ľudského spoločenstva, mal svoje slabosti a nedostatky. Kto ich nemá? Váhou svojej vplyvnej osobnosti podporoval organizačne morálne a finančne všetky akcie, ktorých cieľom bolo predĺženie slovenského ducha a upevnenie slovenskej spolupatričnosti v Kanade. Rovnako aktívne zapojil sa do akcie postavenia Slovenského kríža v Midlande, najznámejšom pútnickom mieste v Kanade, na ktorom je pripevnená plaketka s prosbou k Pánu Bohu, aby oslobodil slovenský národ od komunizmu. Za svoju pioniersku činnosť v cirkevnom a národnom živote kanadských Slovákov vyslúžil si úctivé prímene – kanadský Slovenský Moyses. Svoje pamäti zhrnul do 416 stránovej knihy I'm just reminiscing, ktorá vyšla nákladom Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v Middletown, PA. v roku 1980.

Moje spomienky na monsiñora siahajú do roku 1939. V tom roku koncom septembra navštívil som slovenské strediská v južnom Ontariu v záujme vtedajších novín Slovenské Bratstvo, ktoré som redigoval. Na Union stanici v Toronte čakal na mňa náš jednatel', Ján Štimec, šľachetná slovenská duša. Len čo sme si potriasli ruky povedal, že som "natrafil na dobrý čas. Večer (v nedeľu) pod kostolom na Wellington ulici bude koncert. Dobrá príležitosť prehovoriť k ľuďom." Môj príhovor nadviazal som na výrok istého pápeža, ktorý povedal, že "tlač je svetová veľmoc. Naše noviny nie sú na svetovej úrovni – povedal som - sú však spoznávatel'om a spojovateľ'om všetkých Slovákov v Kanade a hlásateľ'om slovenskej pravdy ..." Po skončení môjho príhovoru Msgr. Shuba ma pozval, aby



Msgr. Michal Shuba

som si k nemu sadnul, vraviac Štefko, dobre si to povedal."

Odvtedy bol som u neho Štefko. Keď sme sa zišli pri nejakej spolkárskej alebo oslavnej príležitosti a ma zbadal, naširoko otvoril ruky a zavolať "Štefko môj, ako sa máš a vaši v Montreale?" Bol som mladý. Plný elánu a bojovnej energie. Veci národa považoval som za sväté. Pri odchode môj hostiteľ mi povedal, že páter Shuba sa obával, že v mojom príhovore vyprovokujem nesvár voči oponentom národno-kresťanského razenia v Kanade a slovenskej suverenity.

Pri spomienke na stopäť-ročné narodeniny Msgr. Shubu, v duchu poputujeme k miestu jeho večného odpočinku skloniť hlavu pred jeho pamätníkom vzdať hold úcty a vďaka prelátovi veľkého srdca a ľudskej znášanlivosti.

Umrel na odpočinku v Dome slovenských jezuitov v Cambridge (Ontario) 14. januára 1989 vo veku 85 rokov.

Češ' jeho pamiatke!

Štefan Hreha

Zachovajme si dedičstvo našich otcov

Na Skalku k patrónom Nitrianskej diecézy svätým Andrejovi-Svoradovi a Beňadikovi putovalo v dňoch 19. – 20. júla vyše desaťtisíc veriacich z blízkeho i vzdialeného okolia. Pri tejto príležitosti povzbudil všetkých pútnikov správca farnosti Stanislav Strapko slovami: „Dedičstvo našich otcov si musíme zachovať za každú cenu. Nesmieme si ho dať nikým a ničím zobrať.“

Program pre mladých i starších obohatili hudobné i spevácke skupiny už v sobotu. Celonočnej sobotnej adorácii v susednej Malej Skalke predchádzala vernisáž výtvarných a literárnych diel sympózia Ora et ars vo Veľkej Skalke. Po nedeľnej rannej staroslovenskej liturgii, ktorej predsedal protosynkel bratislavskej eparchie Vladimír Skyba, pokračoval program púte hlavnou svätou omšou. Slávnostným celebrantom bol vojenský ordinár Mons. František Rábek, ktorý počas príhovoru pútnikov povzbudil: „Nezabudnite žiť svoju vieru aj v 21. storočí. No nie ako papieroví, ale ako naozajstní kresťania.“

Katolícke noviny

Osadné získalo sponzorský dar z USA

Osadné (TASR) - Skvalitniť starostlivosť hlavne o imobilných klientov v Domove sociálnych služieb (DSS) v Osadnom v okrese Snina pomôže sponzorský dar z USA v podobe zdravotníckych pomôcok v hodnote 40,000 Sk (1327 eur), ktorý v domove začali nedávno využívať.

Zo 70 klientov má DSS 13 imobilných vo veku 22 až 28 rokov a celodenná starostlivosť o nich je náročná aj na fyzické výkony ošetrovateliek, uviedol riaditeľ Ján Šrenkel. V zariadení preto privítali zdvíhacie zariadenie do vane s elektrickým ovládaním a sprchovaciu mobilnú stoličku. Vhod prišla aj odsávačka hlienov. Dar odovzdali v domove manželka Ron a Cathy Burnsovci z americkej humanitárnej organizácie Humanitarian Services z Cirkvi Ježiša Krista Svätých Neskorších Dní za prítomnosti zriaďovateľky Nadácie Pro Futura Jozefíny Obšitníkovej. DSS v Osadnom je jediným kombinovaným zariadením na východnom Slovensku, kde sa starajú o deti i dospelých.

TRI EPIGRAMY

V svetle tma

Spolky, to sú vraj ako zapálené lustre.
Škoda preškoda,
že v toľkom svetle čiernu tmu vidíme.

Po našsky

Koho sa máme báť?
Čechoslovákom odtrúbili,
komunisti na zmar vyšli,
internacionalizmus neexistuje!
Nepriateľov hľadáme kde ich niet,
čo nás delí objímame,
jednote po našsky z bohom dávame.
Koho sa teda máme báť?
Sami seba!!!

Veľ'a reči

Reči od steny po stenu –
zo všetkého málo chasnu.
Všetko vieme, všetko chceme
v nejednote zahynieme.

Štefan Hreha
(Zo zbierky Hrst' epigramov)

Americký vojnový hrdina slovenského pôvodu dostal posmrtné občianstvo USA

Bratislava (TASR) - Seržantovi námorníctva Michaelovi Strankovi, Slovákov, ktorý sa preslávil ako jeden zo šiestich príslušníkov americkej armády vztyčujúcich vlajku USA na hore Mt. Suribachi počas bitky o Iwo Jima, vydali in memoriam osvedčenie o americkom občianstve. Oznámilo to 31. júla veľvyslanectvo USA na Slovensku. Hoci sa Strank, ktorý sa narodil v slovenskej obci Jarabina a v roku 1922 emigroval do USA, stal americkým občanom už v roku 1935 prostredníctvom naturalizácie svojho otca, nikdy nedostal osvedčenie o občianstve. Ministerstvo pre prisťahovalectva a občianstvo USA ho totiž evidovalo ako narodeného v Pensylvánii. Osvedčenie vydali 29. júla Strankovej mladšej sestre Mary Peroovej na slávnostnom obrade pred washingtonským Pamätníkom vojnovým hrdinom amerického námorníctva neďaleko Arlingtónskeho cintorína, na ktorom je pochovaný. „Ako Američana slovenského pôvodu ma mimoriadne teší, že námorného seržanta Michaela Stranka konečne uznali za amerického občana. Bol to skutočný patriot a odvážny slovensko-americký hrdina, ktorý položil svoj život v službe svojej krajine,“ uviedol veľvyslanec USA na Slovensku Vincent Obsitnik. V čase vzniku známej fotografie Vztyčovanie vlajky na Iwo Jima z dielne fotografa Joesa Rosenthala 19. februára 1945 Strank slúžil v námorníctve USA viac ako päť rokov. Zahynul v boji pri Iwo Jima menej ako dva týždne po vzniku fotografie, ktorá sa stala najkopírovanejším fotografickým záberom na svete. TASR o tom informovalo veľvyslanectvo Spojených štátov amerických na Slovensku.



Michael Strank



Rada Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí sa nanovo skonštituovala

Martin (TASR) – Rada Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí pri Matici slovenskej (MS) sa 2. augusta v Martine v rámci programu Martinských matičných slávností 2008 skonštituovala na nové funkčné obdobie.

Predseda MS Jozef Markuš zdôraznil, že hlavným cieľom Rady je, aby jej členmi boli vysoko kvalifikovaní ľudia. „Vysoko kvalifikovaní v tom zmysle, že poznajú z prvej ruky a do hĺbky problémy Slovákov v príslušnom štáte alebo aj bloku štátov. Rada nebude často zasadať, ale jej členovia budú odovzdávať relevantné informácie o stave Slovákov a slovenského života Matici slovenskej, aby mohla potom operatívne a na úrovni zasahovať a pomáhať,“ skonštatoval Markuš. Rada má podľa Markuša zatiaľ trojročné funkčné obdobie, ktoré je možné predĺžiť a má 18 členov zo všetkých končín sveta. „Sú tam ešte niektoré neobsadené miesta, napríklad Austrália, Afrika, ale tiež budú do roka obsadené. Predsedu a podpredsedu si členovia Rady zvolia ešte počas Martinských matičných slávností,“ dodal Markuš. Členmi Rady Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí pri MS sa stali Ľudovít Pavlo, čestný predseda Slovenskej ligy v Amerike (USA), Peter Lipták, predseda Obce Slovákov v Českej republike, Ján Fúzik, predseda Celoštátnej slovenskej samosprávy v Maďarsku, Ondrej Mihál, predseda Slovensko-kanadského inštitútu v Toronte (Kanada), Vladimír Skalský, predseda Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí, Branislav Slivka, úradujúci predseda Maticy slovenskej v Juhoslávii (Srbsko), Andrej Kuric, predseda Spolku Slovákov v Chorvátsku – Maticy slovenské (Chorvátsko), Jozef Hajniš, predseda Maticy slovenskej na Zakarpatsku (Ukrajina), Bohumil Šťastný, predseda Združenia Slovákov vo Švajčiarsku, Ľudomír Molitoris, generálny tajomník Spolku Slovákov v Poľsku, Dušan Daučík, predseda Švédsko-slovenského spolku vo Švédsku a Adrián-Miroslav Merka, predseda Demokratického zväzu Slovákov a Čechov v Rumunsku.



Martikán historicky prvý zlatý medailista v samostatnej ére Slovenska

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

ným slalomárom v olympijskej histórii. Prekvapením súťaže singlistov bol krach Martikánovho veľkého rivala Francúza Tonyho Estangueta. Dvojnásobný obhajca titulu skončil v semifinále až deviaty, keď nezvládol náročnú kombináciu bránok číslo 3, 4 a 5 a nepostúpil do bojov o medaily. V semifinále skončil aj ďalší spolufavorit Nemeck Jan Benzien, ktorý bol kvalifikácii druhý hneď za Martikánom. Finálovú jazdu nezvládol Čech Ježek, ktorý zaváhal hneď na tretej bránke a po ďalšom ťuku tesne pred cieľom klesol až na piate miesto. Po semifinále tretí Poliak Krzysztof Bieryt sa po rozhárannej jazde prepadol až na chvost elitnej osmičky. Florence sa vďaka výbornému výkonu vo finále vyhupol na striebornú priečku.



FOTO TASR – Pavol Remiaš

Na snímke zľava predseda Maticy slovenskej Jozef Markuš, predseda SNS Ján Slota a primátor Martina Andrej Hrnčiar, počas tlačovej konferencie pred otvorením Martinských matičných slávností 1. augusta 2008 v Martine.

Na zasadnutí matičných predstaviteľov prijali memorandum

Martin (TASR) – Matica slovenská (MS) sa pri príležitosti 145. výročia založenia verne hlási k odkazu svojich zakladateľov a opätovne prejavuje hlbokú úctu a vďaku za obety a obeť, ktoré museli podstúpiť pri jej zrode a v neslobodnom postavení slovenského národa v rokoch 1863 a 1875. Uvádza sa to v memorande, ktoré prijali účastníci slávnostného spoločného zasadnutia Prezídia, Výboru a Dozorného výboru MS, ktoré sa uskutočnilo na úvod tohoročných Martinských matičných dní.

Súčasná Matica si vysoko cení a uznáva všetkých jej predstaviteľov, členov, sympatizantov, ktorí aj po roku 1919 a potom aj po roku 1945 v čase neslobody a komunistickej diktatúry odvážne stáli na pevných národných a demokratických matičných pozíciách, a to aj za cenu prenasledovania, ujmy a strát na osobných i rodinných osudoch. Až po roku 1989 sa MS mohla kompletne osvedčiť ako neochvejná ochrankyňa slovenského národa doma i vo svete. Verejne vystúpila ako jedna z prvých inštitúcií za suverénne, štátotvorné a demokratické práva slovenského národa, čo napokon vyvrcholilo vyhlásením samostatnej Slovenskej republiky v roku 1993.

V memorande vyslovili poďakovanie a úctu takisto všetkým Slovákom, ich priateľom a sympatizantom vo svete, ktorí prispeli k ochrane slovenskej národnej identity. „Matica slovenská napriek mnohým negatívnym historickým skúsenostiam neochvejne a pevne stojí na svojich demokratických pozíciách, na svojom národnom poslaní, na tradičných európskych, duchovných a spoločenských hodnotách a naďalej chce poskytnúť najmä slovenskej mládeži doma i vo svete živnú pôdu pre jej národnú, kultúrnu, demokratickú, duchovnú istotu, kdekoľvek budú žiť, doma i vo svete,“ píše sa v závere memoranda.

Ježiš sedí na tejto stoličke

Starec ťažko ochorel. Prišiel ho navštíviť kňaz. Len čo vstúpil do izby chorého, všimol si prázdnu stoličku vo zvláštnej polohe pri lôžku, na ktorom chorý odpočíval. Spýtal sa ho, na čo mu slúži. Muž mu odpovedal s úsmevom, poznačeným utrpením: „Predstavujem si, že Ježiš sedí na tejto stoličke, a prv než ste prišli, rozprával som sa s ním... Po dlhé roky som mal neobvyčajné ťažkosti s tým, ako sa modliť. Istý priateľ mi vysvetlil, že modliť sa znamená rozprávať sa s Ježišom, tak si teraz predstavujem Ježiša, ako sedí na stoličke oproti mne, rozprávam mu a počúvam, čo mi odpovedá. Odvtedy nemám ťažkosti s modlitbou.“

O niekoľko dní sa na fare predstavila dcéra starého muža a kňazovi oznámila, že jej otec zomrel. „Odišla som od neho len pár hodín predtým. Keď som sa vrátila do izby, našla som ho mŕtveho s hlavou opretou o stoličku, ktorú chcel mať vždy pri svojom lôžku.“

Katolícke noviny

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Na Slovensku stále pretrvávajú problémy s vysokou mierou nezamestnanosti. Výrazný je najmä podiel dlhodobozamestnaných na celkovej počte ľudí bez práce. „Stále platí, že spomedzi všetkých nezamestnaných je na Slovensku viac ako 70 percent ľudí bez práce dlhšie ako rok,“ upozornil Michal Páleník z Inštitútu zamestnanosti. Toto číslo je podľa neho suverénne najvyššie spomedzi všetkých krajín Európskej únie. „Pre porovnanie, krajinou s druhým najväčším počtom ľudí bez práce dlhšie ako rok je Bulharsko s 58.8-percentným podielom, potom nasleduje Nemecko s 56.6 percentným a Česká republika s 51.1 percentným podielom ľudí,“ uviedol Páleník.

Veľvyslanectvo Spojených štátov amerických od teroristických útokov 11. septembra 2001 zvažovalo premiestnenie budovy z bratislavského Hviezdoslavovho námestia na menej exponované miesto. Zastupiteľský úrad však doposiaľ vhodný pozemok na postavenie novej budovy nenašiel. Bezpečnostné oplotenie budovy vtedy rozprúdilo širokú verejnú diskusiu o estetickosti riešenia. Podľa Hughesa však ambasáda potrebuje vhodnú parcelu, na ktorej by mohla vyrásť nová budova, z viacerých dôvodov. „Mala by byť pre našich slovenských a amerických zamestnancov pohodlným pracovným prostredím a zároveň spĺňať bezpečnostné kritériá,“ dodal.

Obnova lesa Vysokých Tatier prekvapuje. V Tichej a Kôprovej doline vyrastá na kalamitách nová generácia stromov. S prirodzenou obnovou lesa ochranári počítali, ale jej neuveriteľná rýchlosť a intenzita prekvapila aj ich. Podľa monitoringu Lesoochranárskeho zoskupenia VLK rastú na kalamitných plochách už dnes milióny nových stromov.

V pondelok 4. augusta sa začal 44. ročník letnej školy slovenského jazyka a kultúry, ktorú organizuje Studia Academica Slovaca (SAS) v Bratislave. Do školy sa prihlásilo viac ako 140 cudzincov z vyše 30 krajín, napríklad aj z Kuby, Moldavska, Sýrie, Taiwanu aj Turecka.

Počet cestujúcich prepravených nízkonákladovou leteckou spoločnosťou SkyEurope Airlines v júli tohto roka medziročne klesol o 0.1 percenta na 387.1 tisíc. Obsadenosť lietadiel dopravcu v siedmom mesiaci roka na úrovni 80.1 percenta bola oproti tomu istému mesiacu vlaňajška nižšia o 5.7 percentuálneho bodu. Informoval o tom hovorca SkyEurope Airlines Tomáš Kika. SkyEurope je vedúcou nízkonákladovou spoločnosťou v Rakúsku, Českej republike a Slovenskej republike. V letnom letovom poriadku prevádzkuje 76 leteckých spojení do 43 destinácií v 20 krajinách. V roku 2007 spoločnosť prepravila viac ako 3.5 milióna cestujúcich a dosiahla takmer 80-percentnú obsadenosť lietadiel. SkyEurope prevádzkuje flotilu 15 lietadiel Boeing 737-700 NG.

Ceny mlieka v obchodoch na Slovensku v posledných mesiacoch klesajú. Zatiaľ čo spotrebiteľia to vnímajú ako pozitívum, farmárom to spôsobuje problémy. „Ceny mlieka v predajniach klesli za posledný jeden, dva mesiace približne o desať percent,“ informuje analytik trhu Ľubomír Drahovský. Slovensko tak reagovalo na vývoj v Európe, aj keď so značným oneskorením. Mliekarene na Slovensku v súčasnosti nakupujú surovinu za ceny, ktoré sa približujú tým z roku 2001. Vtedy ich však neurčoval trh, ale vyhláska ministerstva pôdohospodárstva. Dôvodom je súčasný prebytok mlieka v Európe, ale aj nízke ceny v Poľsku, Estónsku a Lotyšsku.

Na ministerstve obrany sa chystá veľké prepúšťanie. Do konca tohto roka by malo podľa predstáv premiéra a predsedu Smeru Roberta Fica (Smer) a ministra obrany Jaroslava Bašku (Smer) z rezortu obrany odísť 1,600 ľudí, najmä civilných zamestnancov. Prepúšťanie by sa nemalo dotknúť profesionálnych vojakov. Na ministerstve však nevedia, koľko bude prepúšťanie stáť, lebo každému prepustenému patrí niekoľkokomesačné odstupné. Prepúšťanie sa bude týkať všetkých zložiek ministerstva, rozpočtových a príspevkových organizácií, vojenských podnikov, ale aj nemocníc v správe ministerstva.

Slovensku hrozí, že bude musieť vrátiť peniaze únii pre nedodržanie pravidiel ich čerpania. Prvou takou stavbou môže byť 2.6-kilometrový diaľničný privádzač Žilina-Strážov. Vrátiť možno bude Slovensko musieť takmer štvrt miliardy korún. Únia už peniaze na projekt pozastavila. Náklady na stavbu sa predražili o tretinu viac ako určoval pôvodný rozpočet. Potom začali stavbu skúmať európski audítori. V predbežnej správe sa konštatovalo, že „vzhľadom na nedostatok týkajúci sa nedodržania pravidiel verejného obstarávania, tento projekt nemal byť spolufinancovaný z fondov EÚ“. Chyby označili za vážne a výdavky za neoprávnené. Ministerstvo dopravy nechce správu komentovať. O peniazoch rozhodne Brusel.

Turisti s romantickou dušou obdivujú pamiatky historického Kežmarku zo sedadla bričky ťahanej koňmi. Takto netradične si môžu prejsť tzv. historickú cestu a vidieť centrum mesta s pamiatkami. Brička má stanovisko pri radnici, vedľa informačnej kancelárie. Trasa vedie od Reduty, Ulicou dr. Alexandra, okolo baziliky sv. Kríža, cez Starý trh, čo je najstaršia časť mesta, jeho bývalé centrum, ďalej smeruje okolo hradu a naspäť k radnici. Jazda mestom trvá asi 15 minút a záujemca zaplatí za osobu 50 Sk (1.65 eur) bez ohľadu na to, či sa vezie sám, vo dvojici alebo s rodinou.

Televíziu pozeralo za prvý a druhý štvrťrok tohto roka 90 percent Slovákov, čo predstavuje viac ako štyri milióny divákov. Vyplýva to z prieskumu Market & Media & Lifestyle - Target Group Index, ktorý uskutočnila spoločnosť Median Sk v období 7. januára až 22. júna. Najvyššiu popularitu dosiahla Televízia Markíza - 66 percent. Sledovanosť na úrovni 33 percent zaznamenala TV JOJ, za ňou sa umiestnila Jednotka s 29 percentami. Nasleduje Dvojka (6%), Prima TV (5%), Nova a TA3 (4%). Prvú desiatku najsledovanejších televíznych staníc uzatvárajú RTL Klub s tromi percentami, ČT1 a TV2 s dvojpercentnou sledovanosťou. Celková počúvanosť rádii v parametri „počúval včera,“ predstavuje 74 percent. Poradie otvára Rádio Expres s 23 percentami, ďalej nasleduje Rádio Slovensko (18%), Fun rádio (14%). S ôsmimi percentami sa na štvrtej priečke umiestnili Jemné melódie a piatu obsadilo Rádio Regina (7%). Na šiestom mieste je rádio Okey s rovnakým počtom percent a siedma priečka patrí Rádiu Viva (4%). Prieskum bol urobený na populácii vo veku 14-79 rokov.

Štátny podnik Mincovňa Kremnica na objednávku Národnej banky Slovenska (NBS) vyrazí a dodá 500 miliónov kusov euromincií všetkých nominálnych hodnôt. S razbou euromincií sme začali 19. augusta tohto roka, oznámil vedúci predaja a marketingu š.p. Mincovňa Kremnica Jaroslav Setnický. Na otázku, ako je technologicky pripravený podnik na túto objednávku, potvrdil, že „zatiaľ všetko ide podľa výrobného plánu. Túto úlohu pre NBS splníme do 15. decembra 2008,“ spresnil dodaciu lehotu. Mincovňa bola založená v roku 1328 a už takmer sedem storočí nepretržite vyrába minciarske produkty, ktoré patria z hľadiska viacerých kritérií medzi špičku vo svete. V súčasnosti mincovňa zamestnáva približne 230 pracovníkov.

TASR a slovenské časopisy



FOTO TASR Pavel Neubauer

Na snímke vľavo prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič si prezerá striebornú medailu slovenskej trapistky Zuzany Štefečekovej, ktorú získala 11. augusta 2008 na OH v Pekingu. Vpravo je jej tréner Branislav Slamka.



OSN uvažuje o otvorení úradu v Bratislave

Organizácia Spojených národov (OSN) uvažuje, že v Bratislave otvorí jeden z úradov Populačného fondu OSN, ktorý je zameraný na pomoc rozvojovým krajinám. Rozhodnutie o sídle má padnúť v januári budúceho roka.

Slovensko ponúklo OSN kancelárske priestory v budove na Drotárskej ulici. Podľa medzinárodnej praxe úrad by nemal za priestory platiť.

Výkonná rada fondu v roku 2007 rozhodla, že organizáciu treba presunúť z newyorskej centrály do regiónov. Schválili vytvorenie piatich regionálnych úradov. Sídlit' budú v Bangkoku, Káhire, Johannesburgu a Paname. Región východnej Európy a strednej Ázie zatiaľ nemá určené sídlo.

Podľa MZV je Bratislava vážnym kandidátom. Spomínala sa však aj Alma Ata v Kazachstane, za ktorú sa nepriamo postavilo Rusko, pretože sídlo chcelo v štáte, ktoré bude prijímať pomoc fondu, čo spĺňa Kazachstan, nie Bratislava.

Populačný fond OSN (UNFPA) pôsobí od roku 1969 a venuje sa napríklad zabezpečovaniu štatistických údajov o demografických trendoch, rastu populácie atď.

PRAKTIZUJTE FRATERNALIZMUS



Zľava dvaja ministri; Rev. Mgr. Jozef Palušák, farár a dekan obce Polomka na Slovensku; otec Jozef Vaňo, hlavný duchovný kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda a otec Grzegorz Nowicki.

Slovenský katolícky Deň rodiny v Mississauga, Ontario

Ako aj po iné roky aj toho roku sa pod záštitou farníkov kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda a Okresu Mons. M. Shubu IKSJ konal Slovenský katolícky Deň rodiny, v Creditvale Park v Mississauga, Ontario.

Podujatie sa začalo v nedeľu, 27. júla 2008 napoludnie svätou omšou, ktorej hlavným celebrantom bol náš nový farár kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Missis-

Pokračovanie na str. 20



Matica slovenská oslávila 145. výročie svojho vzniku

Martinské matičné slávnosti sa konali od 1.- 4. augusta pri príležitosti 145. výročia vzniku MS, ale takisto aj 40. výročia jej spontánneho oživotvorenia a obnovenia jej členskej základne, ktorému pred rokom 1968 bránila vtedajšia politická moc. Hlavným partnerom podujatia sa stala Slovenská národná strana, ktorá ich podporila nielen morálne, ale aj materiálne. Okrem iného zabezpečila finančné prostriedky na rekonštrukciu martinského amfiteátra, kde sa uskutočnil koncert populárnej hudby pre mládež. V sobotu 2. augusta sa tam predstavili popredné folklórne súbory a uskutočnil sa slávnostný snem a zhromaždenie priaznivcov a členov MS. Vystúpil na ňom aj predseda vlády SR Robert Fico. Vo svojom prejave vyslovil podporu Matici, ktorú táto inštitúcia stratila počas vládnutia predchádzajúcej vlády.

V Národnej dvorane v prvej historickej budove MS v sobotu ocenili najvyšším matičným vyznamenaním, Zlatou medailou MS herečku a aktívnu matičiarku Evu Kristínovú pri príležitosti jej životného jubilea. Čestné členstvo v MS in memoriam vrátili politikovi Alexandrovi Dubčekovi, ktoré mu odobrali po roku 1968. Prémium Nadácie MS pomenovanú po prenasledovanom literárnom vedcovi, rehoľníkovi Vševladovi Jozefovi Gajdošovi udelili dlhoročným matičným činiteľom, Jánovi Cichému, Metodovi Kaľavskému, Imrichovi Sedlákovi a Tomášovi Winklerovi. Mladá krajanská poetka Miroslava Dudková žijúca v Novom Sade v Srbsku a píšuca po slovensky si do Martina prišla prevziať Cenu Maše Haľamovej za zbierku básní Suchý rok a predchádzajúcu literárnu činnosť.

Martinské matičné slávnosti v Martine pokračovali 3. augusta slávnostnými bohoslužbami, svätou omšou v rímsko-katolíckom kostole a službami božími v chráme evanjelickej cirkvi a. v. Je to symbolické, pretože ako zdôraznil predseda Matice slovenskej (MS) Jozef Markuš, pri jej vzniku v roku 1863 boli významní predstavitelia oboch, najviac zastúpených cirkví na Slovensku, Štefan Moyses (1797–1869) a Karol Kuzmány (1806–1866). Skutočnosť, že obaja boli spoluzakladateľmi a potom aj stáli na čele tejto najstaršej kultúrnej ustanovizne slovenského národa, dodávali Matici potrebnú vážnosť, nielen pred Slovákami, ale aj vtedajšou svetskou vrchnosťou i v zahraničí.

V pondelok 4. augusta, v deň výročia vzniku MS, sa v Národnej dvorane uskutočnilo historické a spoločenské kolokvium k významným rokom matičných dejín. Na záver podujatia bola v Matičnom dome vernisáž výstavy Matica slovenská 1863–1968–2008.

Na Slovensku sa stretnú ministri obrany krajín NATO

Bratislava (TASR) - Splnomocnencom vlády SR pre prípravu a realizáciu neformálneho zasadnutia ministrov obrany členských krajín NATO na Slovensku (malo by sa konať 22. - 23. októbra) sa má stať štátny tajomník ministerstva obrany (MO) Daniel Duchoň (nominant Smeru-SD).

Jeho hlavnými úlohami bude vedenie spoločných rokovaní medzirezortnej pracovnej skupiny, rezortnej pracovnej skupiny a medzirezortného koordináčného výboru, komunikácia s médiami, aktívna komunikácia s občanmi, podnikateľskou sférou, domácimi aj zahraničnými inštitúciami v rozsahu svojej pôsobnosti či príprava materiálu na rokovanie vlády SR podrobne definujúceho podrobnosti zasadnutia.

Podľa súčasných zvyklostí platných v rámci NATO sa neformálne zasadnutia ministrov obrany členských krajín konajú dvakrát do roka. "Organizácia neformálneho zasadnutia ministrov obrany členských krajín aliancie predstavuje unikátnu možnosť prezentácie Slovenska nielen v rámci NATO, ale aj v širšom euroatlantickom kontexte," domnieva sa MO. Podľa rezortu nové členské krajiny aliancie, ktoré podobnú aktivitu organizovali, sa okrem odbornej stránky sústredili aj na celkové zviditeľnenie krajiny. "Samotná príprava a realizácia neformálneho zasadnutia tak ukáže schopnosť Slovenska zorganizovať aktivitu takéhoto rozsahu," uvádza sa v návrhu.



Martikán historicky prvý zlatý medailista v samostatnej ére Slovenska

Peking (TASR) - Slovenský vodný slalomár Michal Martikán sa stal v Pekingu olympijským víťazom v kanoe jednotlivcov. Historicky prvý zlatý medailista v samostatnej ére Slovenska zopakoval svoj triumf z Atlanty 1996, v dvoch medzicykloch bol dvakrát strieborný, pred štyrmi rokmi v Aténach kontroverzným verdiktom jury. Striebornú medailu vybojoval v Pekingu Brit David Florence, bronz putuje do Austrálie zásluhou Robina Bella.

Martikán sa postaral o druhý pekinský cenný kov pre slovenské farby, strelkyňa Zuzana Štefečková získala v pondelok v trape striebro. Dvadsaťdeväťročný rodák z Lipovského Mikuláša položil základ úspechu už v semifinále, ktoré napriek dvom trestným sekundám vyhral s náskokom 93 stotín pred Čechom Stanislavom Ježkom. Vo finálovej jazde Martikán v areáli Šunji chybil v osemnástej bránke, no vďaka skvelému finišu napokon triumfoval suverénnym spôsobom s takmer dvojsekundovým náskokom pred Florenceom. Za olympijské prvenstvo ho okrem zlatého kovu čaká aj prémie 1,000.000 Sk od Slovenského olympijského výboru. Martikán sa stal so ziskom dvoch zlatých a dvoch strieborných medailí navyše najúspešnejším vod-



FOTO TASR – Pavel Neubauer Na snímke slovenský reprezentant v C1 vo vodnom slalome Michal Martikán so zlatou medailou na stupni víťazov počas XXIX. OH v Pekingu 12. augusta 2008.

Pokračovanie na str. 22